

# 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, December 3, 2009

## Holiday Dinner

Annual covered dish dinner and show and tell.

Bring a family story you've written or a photo, a family memento, etc. Bring your favorite dish for dinner and the society will provide the paper goods. Invite family and friends to join us, for a great evening of fun.

6:30 PM

Grand Prairie Memorial Library  
 901 Conover Drive, Grand Prairie

Visitors Are Always Welcome

*Cynthia Jones*  
 Vice President of Programs

### Websites Of Interest

Great free genealogy forms site by Duane and Mary Hagstrom Bailey:

<http://www.cs.williams.edu/~bailey/genealogy/>

Free forms from Family Tree Magazine:

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/freeforms>

Free forms from Progenealogists:

<http://www.progenealogists.com/freeforms.htm>

## Grand Prairie Centennial Profiles

On March 20, 1909 the citizens of Grand Prairie voted to incorporate as a city. The City of Grand Prairie is in the midst of a year long celebration of this historic vote. The Grand Prairie Genealogical Society, as part of this celebration, solicited biographical profiles about citizens who helped make Grand Prairie the great city it is today. Roots 'n Branches will publish many of these great profiles under the title 'The Folks Who Made Grand Prairie', the first of these profiles appears on page 99 of this issue of 'RNB'.



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## From the Gavel

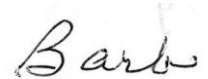
T'is the season for Thanksgiving and several among us are deserving of special praise.

- Karen Brown and her Lock-in Committee did a great job. It was truly a team effort and a fun evening. We also gained several new members.
- Kathy Rittenhouse and Tim Wheeler came in on their day off to open the library and help during the lock-in.
- John Cockrum noticed that a group of checks he put in the bank's night deposit window didn't get posted to the GPGS account. He made several calls to the bank. Ultimately, the bank sent someone down into "the innards" of the night deposit window. I don't know what the mechanism of that looks like but, sure enough, that bundle of checks was caught in the machinery! If you noticed that your check didn't clear as quickly as you expected, don't complain to your bank; just thank John for being our tenacious treasurer.
- Cynthia Jones, our Vice-President for Program, stepped in and led the November meeting on just a few hours' notice. As President-Elect, Regina Shumaker was ready to do this because John and I had to be in San Antonio for the Texas State Genealogical Society's Board Meeting that night. However, Lynn Shumaker's gall bladder was demanding to be removed—immediately—so Cynthia came to the rescue.
- Pam Knight, Immediate Past-President and now Webmaster, made the long drive to San Antonio to represent us at the conference as a Texas State Genealogical Society (TSGS) Partner Society.
- Regina Shoemaker and her Cemetery Indexing Committee are moving right

along. We hope to get a grant from TSGS to help fund this

- Jan Barrett is gathering members to help the Library index scrapbooks donated by various Grand Prairie clubs and associations. That project will kick off in January. If you've lived in Grand Prairie for a long time, you'd be particularly valuable on this project.
- Several members, including Carol Franklin, Rena Yarach, Karen Brown, Shirley Willingham and Regina Shumaker have been sprucing up and restocking the genealogy forms drawer in the Genealogy Room.
- John Wylie has been elected to be the Texas State Genealogical Society's Vice-President for Membership.
- You probably don't know Barbara Tsirigotis (sarah-got-us) of Irving but you soon will. She becomes the TSGS District 10 Representative at the first of the year. That's the District the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society is in. She'll be funneling information about GPGS activities to TSGS leadership and to the editor of *Stirpes* so TSGS members and partner societies across the state know about us. She will also be making sure that we know about TSGS activities, such as the annual conference next November in Waco. As your President and TSGS District 11 Representative (our house is just over the Tarrant County line), I look forward to working with her.

This is a great time to be a part of the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society and I am thankful for all of you!



*Barbara Brixey Wylie*  
President

*Grand Prairie, Texas*  
*1909-2009*  
*A Century of Service!*

## Library Liaison Report

Periodicals sent to GPGS continue to be donated to the Library. Barbara Wylie donated two books on behalf of GPGS. They were: *Military Service Records at the National Archives* (NARA Reference Paper 109, 2007; *Genograms in Family Assessment* by McGoldrick and Gerson, 1985 and three years of the *Missouri State Genealogical Association Journal*. We continue to have three members of the Society at the Genealogy Room on the third Thursday evening of each month to tutor beginners. Carol Franklin made some really neat nametags to help visitors identify members available to help. This month the three volunteers helped one person with configuring her laptop to work with the GPPL wifi and develop a strategy for starting her genealogical research.

*John V. Wylie*  
Library Liaison

## Financial Report

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

Beginning Balance	\$1887.69
Deposits	\$ 0.00
Less: Exp	\$ 101.99
Bal 12-01-09	\$1,785.70

*John Cockrum*  
Treasurer



**Happy Holidays**

## Name That Person

**Can you name this Grand Prairie Genealogical Society member?**



**Last Month's photo:**  
Cynthia Jones

## Workshops/Conferences

Texas Czech Genealogical Society  
January 2010  
Let Freedom Ring Conference

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

...

Genealogical Society of Kendall County  
Saturday, January 30, 2010  
Curt Witcher  
Allen County Public Library  
Boerne Texas Convention Center

[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txgskc/seminar\\_2010.pdf](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txgskc/seminar_2010.pdf)

...

Clayton Library Friends  
Welcomes  
Dick Eastman  
Saturday, March 27, 2010  
Houston, Texas

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

## Member Profile

### Cynthia Jones

I was born in Jacksonville, Texas. I have two brothers, one is two and a half years older (Ronald) and the other is two and a half years younger (Leslie). Shortly after my birth, my family moved to Waxahachie, Texas where we lived until I was about eleven years ago. My father, Eugene Lowe was a Spanish preacher and the churches he preached for was in Waxahachie and Itasca, Texas. He was sent to San Isidro, Texas, which is near the border of Mexico and the United States for two years. My mom, Jeannette (Childress) Lowe was a stay at mom. My mom did not like it in San Isidro, so my uncle told my parents about Buckner Children's Home in Dallas, Texas. He told them that they were looking for house parents for a girl's dorm. The girl's dorm seemed like a good idea because I had more characteristics of a boy than both of my brothers. I was the one they called when someone was picking on them. I was also the one if something was stuck in a tree, on top of a house, or building. My family and I lived at Buckner in the Pender building for three years. The first year it was a girl's building, which my parents thought that the girl characteristics would rub off on me. They had thoughts about how wonderful to have me surrounded by girls. They rubbed off alright, but they defiantly were not the ones that you wanted your little girl to immulate. The Pender building was changed to a boy's dorm a year after we were there. Can you image what it was like for a girl who was turning thirteen with a two story dorm full of teenage boys? They were between the ages of twelve and sixteen. WOW!!! I grew up fast during those three years.

At fifteen I married and had two girls, Liza and Tina. They were ten months apart. I was divorced after one year. I tried marriage again when I was eighteen and had two boys, Enis and Rudy. It lasted about five years because I thought I needed to be on my own. How crazy was that? The things we do and think when we are young and naive. A few years later, number three and I had two more children, Johnathan and Macon. I now have three girls and three boys. I have twenty-one grandchildren, seven boys and fourteen girls, and a grandson due in March. I have one great grandson. My oldest granddaughter had him on my birthday, March 22. He will be three this March.

During all of this, I graduated from Dallas Baptist University with a B.S. I continued at D.B.U. to get my Mastered in Education. I transferred to University at Arlington before I finished my graduate classes. I continued my graduate classes at U.T.A. I got my teaching degree there. I have taught in Grand Prairie since 1983. I retired in 2006. That's enough about me and my group.

My maternal grandparents were from Waxahachie, Itasca, and Hillsboro, Texas. My paternal were from several places in Texas and Tennessee. Most of my paternal side is buried in the Red Oak, Texas cemetery.

## Donate Your Print Cartridges

### Think Green

Do you have an empty ink cartridge? Staples has an ink cartridge recycling program; \$3 for each ink cartridge up to ten per month. If you would like to generate money needed to purchase ink for printing brochures and other items for the society, please bring an empty ink cartridge to the next meeting. We can be earth friendly plus reduce our printing expenses.

## The Folks Who Made Grand Prairie

### Charles Burrell Tibbs 1896 - 1965

Born March 11, 1896, in Royce City, Texas, Charles Burrell Tibbs was better known as Burrell Tibbs. He began working as a "greaseball" mechanic in 1909 at St. Louis, Missouri, for the French aviator, Tom Benoist, builder of seaplanes. Burrell became a pilot in 1914 and soon became part of a barnstorming flying circus that thrilled audiences across Oklahoma and Texas. They didn't need an airfield—they landed in farmer's fields and the crowd came to them. In later years, he liked to say that he flew out of Love Field when it was just a cow pasture. He was also a Fixed Base Operator, with Les Miller as an associate, in Dallas, Texas.

From 1917 to 1919, Tibbs flew with the Army Air Corps in World War I and trained wartime fliers. In 1919 he went back to barnstorming as a member of "Texas Top-Notch Fliers." Part of the act was recruiting a man from the audience to parachute out of Burrell's plane. Wiley Post volunteered. It was Wiley's his first parachute jump and soon Burrell taught Wiley how to fly. When World War II came, Burrell taught airplane mechanics at the National Defense School in Dallas and was a pilot instructor for the U.S. Army.

After the war, Burrell operated a flying service in Grand Prairie, Texas. At age 57, he flew a World War I Jenny from Bloomington, Illinois to Grand Prairie, a seven day trip covering 750 miles to celebrate the 50th anniversary of powered flight. In its 21 December 1953 issue, *The Cleveland [Ohio] Plain Dealer* quoted Burrell

as using a "dollar watch, a yardstick and a Rand McNally map" were his navigation instruments for this trip.

Barnstorming throughout Oklahoma and Texas was only the beginning. In his lifetime as an industrious and enterprising business man, Tibbs operated flying schools, commercial air services, did crop dusting, managed several airports in Oklahoma and Texas, and taught cadet aviation classes at the University of Oklahoma, Norman

Burrell Tibbs was a member of Early Birds, OX5 Club of Aviation Pioneers, Q.B. Club of Oklahoma and Texas, Air Indians, Antique Aircraft Association, Tau Omega (honorary), Kill Devil Hill Memorial Society, Institute of Aeronautical Science, and the Experimental Aircraft Association.

Charles Burrell Tibbs died May 5, 1965 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. His body was cremated and the ashes dropped from an airplane above his birthplace, Royce City, Texas. His obituary in *The Dallas Morning News*, 6 May 1965, listed his survivors as his wife, Julia; two daughters, Mrs. Ruth Crossley and Mrs. Jeanne Santerre.

To learn more about the Burrell Tibbs-Wiley Post connection, visit the Oklahoma Historical Society's website [digitalibrary.okstate.edu](http://digitalibrary.okstate.edu).

*Submitted by: Karen Brown, Grand Prairie Genealogical Society, Grand Prairie, Texas*

## 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.

## In The Coming Months

### **January 6, 2010 John V. Wylie**

#### Family History on the Cheap

This presentation demonstrates real world tools and tips for cutting the cost of researching your ancestors. John Wylie serves the Association of Professional Genealogists as Secretary. He serves his church as chair of the Information Technology/Audio Visual Committee and as a member of the History Committee. From 2000 through 2004 he served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Professional Genealogists. He is the 2004 recipient of the Dallas Genealogical Society Lloyd Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award. He and his wife, Barbara, hosted 35 researchers on the Dallas Genealogical Society's 2006 Research Trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. One of GENTECH's founders, John was an active participant in the Genealogical Data Model Working Group and served on the NGS Computer Interest Group Committee in 1999 and 2000. John and Barbara have taught genealogical courses at Mountain View College and to church and Boy Scout groups. He has a deep interest in records preservation and enjoys teaching genealogists how to use computer technology and computer users how to do sound genealogical research.

### **February 6, 2010 Bill Covington**

#### The Continental Soldier of the American Revolution

Uniformed as a Continental soldier of the late war period American Revolution, Bill will display, explain, and demonstrate the clothing, arms, and accoutrements with which the common soldier of the Continental Congressional cause fought against the troops of the British Empire. Through his presentation, he hopes to bring honor to the memories of the men and women who lived, fought, and suffered through the dark days that preceded the birth of our nation. Bill Covington is a teacher by profession, having spent 14 years in

the Dallas Independent School District as an instructor of both Social Studies and English as a Second Language (ESL), primarily at the middle school level. This was followed by 6 years of teaching as an adjunct instructor for several of the local community colleges. Currently, he is an instructor of Social Studies at the Waxahachie Global High School in Waxahachie, Texas where he teaches World Geography and World History. In addition, he is also an adjunct instructor of U.S., European, and Texas History at Navarro College also in Waxahachie. A native of Ft. Worth, Texas, he resides in Cedar Hill, Texas with his wife and three children.

*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](http://www.gptx.org/library)



## Executive Board Members

### EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS:

#### PRESIDENT:

**Barbara Wylie**  
[barb@johnwylie.com](mailto:barb@johnwylie.com)

#### PRESIDENT-ELECT:

**Regina Shumaker**  
[golfinshu@sbcglobal.net](mailto:golfinshu@sbcglobal.net)

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

**Cynthia Jones**  
[cynthiajones1957@yahoo.com](mailto:cynthiajones1957@yahoo.com)

#### 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@gmail.com](mailto:jeclonghorn@gmail.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:

**Pamela Knight**  
[pffaye@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pffaye@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.mgfpersonalsecretary.com](http://www.mgfpersonalsecretary.com)

#### Hospitality:

**Becky and Beau Garland**  
[owengarland@sbcglobal.net](mailto:owengarland@sbcglobal.net)

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

## 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 18, 1910 issue. Grand Prairie Texan February 18, 1910*

A number of the stockholders of the CHASE FURNITURE and COFFIN COMPANY, accompanied by their wives, came out from Dallas Tuesday to inspect the factory and take in the sights of our town. They expressed themselves as being greatly pleased with the business of the company and its prospects and spoke very encouragingly of the remarkable growth of our town during the past 18 months.

Tuesday night a number met at the Methodist Church and organized a singing class. The following officers were chosen: S. L. SANDERS, pres., H. J. LUCAS, v. pres., Miss MARY HENRY, sec.-treas., Prof ELY, instructor. It was resolved that a copy of the minutes of the organization be sent the press for publication and an invitation be extended to all interested in singing to join the class, which meets Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights.

GEORGE JENNINGS, who assisted J. R. CORPIER in the North Side Barber Shop for several days recently, left on Thursday of last week for his home at Heath, Rockwall County. He was much impressed with our town and its great resources, and will probably return later and make this his future home.

J. M. FOSTER of Route 1, while in town Monday, ordered the Texan sent to his address. He reported that the court at Dallas approved the petition of citizens of his community for the establishment of a road from a point on the Grand Prairie and Sowers road, just north of the river, and thence

extending east and north one and one-half miles to a point of intercession with the Lower Dallas and Birdville roads. This road follows close to the river, and will shorten the distance between Grand Prairie and outlying communities considerable.

The Texan has heard of numerous complaints recently concerning obstructions in the streets and upon the sidewalks. Somebody is responsible for the existence of these obstructions and unless they are removed by the private parties, then the city authorities should take the matter in hand. There is a post about 8 inches in diameter, 3 feet high and extending into the ground to an unknown depth, in the center of a certain prominent sidewalk or pathway in Grand Prairie, over which three persons were known to have stumbled the same night, entailing more or less bodily injury and causing great mental anguish to each. A night seldom passes without the post leaving its impress on somebody's anatomy. Such obstructions are dangerous and should be removed without further delay.

Excerpts from article on SUGGESTION FOR LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES - W. W. STOGNER.

One of the crying needs of Texas is a State Tuberculosis Sanitarium. The State should purchase a large tract of land in Southwest Texas and erect thereon such buildings as are required for the proper care and treatment of persons afflicted with this awful plague.

The State should do this for the protection of the public. The State should establish such an institution for humanitarian reasons.

"MARSH" ELLISTON, a candidate for Tax Assessor of Dallas County, is a son of MARK ELLISTON, one of the best pioneer citizens of this county and has inherited the

many good qualities of his father. MARSH is well and favorably known by many of our citizens, inasmuch for about 7 years just prior to this time he has been connected with the office of State and County Tax Collector of Dallas County, and for about the last two years he has been associated with J. L. GOGGANS in the matter of the collection of delinquent State and County taxes due in Dallas County.

He is asking the Democracy of this county to promote him. He is making this race entirely on his merits and promises an honest and faithful discharge of the duties of the office, in the event he is elected.

#### TO FORM DAVIDSON CLUB

Dallas friends of former Attorney General R. V. DAVIDSON have issued a call for a mass meeting to be held in the auditorium of the city hall of that city on Feb. 22 to organize the Dallas County Davidson Club.

It is expected that W. C. McKAMY will be nominated as permanent chairman of the Club with JAMES T. STACY as secretary.

#### THE RUNAWAYS

While making deliveries with J. D. DUNCAN's wagon Monday afternoon, ROY FLORENCE left the horse standing in front of Mrs. MARTIN's residence to make a delivery. In some manner during ROY's absence, the horse became frightened and ran away, leaving the wagon behind and colliding with the team of Mr. McLAUGHLIN standing in front of DUNCAN's store, the corner of B. M. BURGHER's frame store building and R. L. HIGHT's team at the corner of Main and West streets. No serious damage was done further than the creation of considerable excitement.

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