



Roots 'n' Branches

Your Award Winning Newsletter!

The Monthly Grand Prairie Genealogical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 532026 Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-2026

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Breaking Down the Barriers

Prepare yourself for research! Come to the meeting with information on the person that has you stumped. We will break into groups of three and discuss what or whom we are hoping to find. Our goal is to go home either with new information or at least new ideas for further research. It'll be fun and we'll get to know each other a little better!

GRAND PRAIRIE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
GRAND PRAIRIE MEMORIAL LIBRARY
901 CONOVER DRIVE

Refreshments will be provided by

Regina Shumaker
Vice President of Programs

Due to Library Renovations, our January meeting will be held in the Genealogy Room of the Grand Prairie Memorial Library. Please use the Main Library Entrance.

**Support Your Society-
 Become a Member Today!**

2008 In Review

The Grand Prairie Genealogical Society had a very successful year in 2008 and with continued support from our members 2009 will be even greater. Below are highlight of some of the GPGS accomplishments this past year.

- ✚ GPGS's continued monetary and material donations to the GPML's genealogy collection.
- ✚ Roots and Branches Awarded First Place in state newsletter competition.
- ✚ Library Lock-In: A very successful event hosted in cooperation with the Grand Prairie Library System Staff.

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From the Gavel

Facing the New Year

It's that time of year again and time to put the holidays behind us. To take down the Christmas tree and start preparing for the New Year. There's always those annual resolutions; to lose weight, get the taxes done early this year, get together more with friends and family or catch up on whatever it is we're behind on now. And as always, these wonderful ideas last just long enough to write them down before we're back to our old selves.

I propose this year you throw out all the resolutions and good intentions and set some goals. Instead of resolving to lose weight, set a goal to cut back on items in your diet that you know aren't best for you like sugar. Instead of resolving to get the taxes done early, set aside a box to put those papers in and put them there as they come in the mail or you run across them. Then have a date set for organizing it all and another date set for doing your taxes or taking them to the accountant. Instead of pledging to get together with family and friends, mark some dates on your calendar for when you want to socialize and call someone and set a time. You can always arrange a monthly time to get together for dinner or lunch. And plan on doing that today. Tomorrow you can set another goal. One item you might want to schedule on a regular basis is organizing your research materials. Let's face it. We all have those piles around the house and we haven't sifted through them or scanned them into the computer or filed them. Whatever attention it is they need, we have a pile. Maybe it's a daily goal of one item to scan and file. Maybe it's a weekly trip to the library. Maybe it's time each month before the genealogical society meeting to work for

an hour organizing stuff or an annual trip to try and break through a brick wall. Whatever your stumbling blocks or procrastination point; make a plan for dissolving it this year.

Put on your thinking cap and set those goals! I resolve to set mine. Oops! Old habits die hard. Here's wishing you a HAPPY NEW YEAR with the prayer that all of your goals will be met in the coming year and that your efforts will bring great satisfaction and joy will find your heart.

Pamela Knight
President

Free Online Database

Cook County, Ill. (home of Chicago), has posted a database of transcribed information from declarations of intention filed in the county's circuit court between 1906 and 1929. A declaration of intention, sometimes called "first papers," was the first step toward becoming a US citizen. Records are still being added. So far, the database contains information from more than 150,000 of the 400,000 declarations of intention filed. A grant from the National Archives' National Historical Publications and Records Commission funds the project.

The search is pretty flexible: You can search on a name or part of a name, birth date, birthplace, occupation, or other parameters. My search on Syria as the country of birth netted 94 matches. Click on a match to see the date the intention was filed, birth information, occupation, current residence, port of departure for the United States and date of arrival.

www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/NR/

*From our friends at
Family Tree magazine*

Member Profile

Pamela Faye FLYNT Knight

Pamela Faye FLYNT was born in Houston, Texas in 1952. The second child of William Max FLYNT and Alma Faye SMITH, I was named by my brother, William Eddie FLYNT. He suffered from asthma and had a difficult time with the moldy air of the Texas coast so within a year the family left Houston for the healthier climate of Dallas County.

I grew up and attended school in Irving, Texas. As a young child I was interested in ballet and did well until I gave it about the time I entered Jr. High School. As hormones would have it, my interest focused more on boys than on ballet. In hindsight, I should have kept my focus on dance as that passion has not faded over the years nor been nearly as disappointing as some relationships.

As was expected, I followed in my father and brothers footsteps by attending Texas Tech University. But, just like my brother, I was not really focused on a degree, and it wasn't long before life went in other directions. But finally in 1999 I received my degree in Biblical Counseling from Tyndale Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Within two years after High School, I married my high school sweetheart, Stephen Dan KNIGHT and took on the role of a Navy wife. After only a week of marriage my new husband was headed for his first duty station, the communications station north of Subic in the Republic of the Philippines. But President Fernando Marcos declared martial law in the Philippines before I was able to join my husband and it was another 5 ½ months before we saw one another. This was only the first of many long separations courtesy of the U.S. Navy. But the Navy was not the only cause of our

many years apart. Once Steve got out of the Navy, he was only working locally for a few short years before taking a job that would keep him traveling Monday through Friday. All that separation added in the determination of our marriage and after 28 years it ended in divorce.

Our first son was born while I was still a Navy wife, and although most of my pregnancy was spent in California, we were stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas when Stephen Ray was born in 1976. By the time William Wayne was born in 1983, we were among the civilian population again had settled back in the Metroplex. As a mother and housewife, I stayed busy over the years. I worked some full time but mostly part time over the years. I did my best to always be home when my children were home, as I believe that it is important, especially when their father traveled so much. I was the church secretary for a time and even when I went to work as an Administrative Assistant to the State Representative, I made sure that I was able to take and meet my husband to and from the airport and was home when or shortly after the kids got out of school. Over the years I participated in several community activities. I was active in the PTA and my church. My job with the State Rep afforded me the opportunities to participate with both the Irving and Grand Prairie Chambers as well as completing both the Best Southwest and the Grand Prairie leadership courses. I spent a number of years as a Beauty Consultant with Mary Kay Cosmetics; have worked in a bankers bank and am currently self employed. I have a business as a personal secretary. Personal Secretary sounds better than professional wife. After all, that's where most of my experience lies. I am also trying to do a little investing in real estate so I find myself in the position of a Landlord.

Besides genealogy, I have a few more hobbies. As a Toastmaster I have achieved an ACB. I have dabbled in poetry and have been lucky enough to have a few things published.

Nothing that I've received any payments of any sort for but after 15 years, I still haven't finished the book I started either. After the doctor explained Attention Deficit Disorder to me just before my oldest son entered school, I began to realize the lifelong problem. I guess you can conclude from my life that self-discipline is not one of my strongest points. That is one of my father's traits that I wish I had inherited.

Now, being on my own and with my children grown, I find it more difficult to know what to do with my time than when I never had enough of it. But, it sure is nice to be able to do whatever I want with it.

Name That Person

Can you name this Grand Prairie Genealogical Society member?



Last Month's photo:
A young Pamela Knight.

Thank You

The members of the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society Executive Board wish to thank everyone who attended the December GPGS meeting and brought great food and show and tell to share.

Workshops/Conferences

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

Federation of Genealogical Societies 2009 Annual Conference Passages Through Time

September 2-5, 2009

Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center
Little Rock, Arkansas

In The Coming Months

Below is a listing of the programs planned for the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Due to renovations to the meeting room of the Grand Prairie Library the February meeting of the GPGS will be held in the Genealogy Research Room.

Feb 5, 2009 Searching for Holocaust Survivors
RUTH LLOYD will share how research led her to information regarding her parent's survival of the Holocaust. Her father survived Auschwitz and mother survived the Skarzysko-Kamienna Slave Labor Camp.

Ruth is a first generation American born in Fort Worth, Texas. She graduated from the University of Texas Arlington with a BBA in Marketing. Her career has been in sales for several paper companies over the last 30 years and is currently employed by xpedx, an International Paper Company. Ruth is married and has one son.

Regina Shumaker
Vice President of Programs

Genealogy Software

Genealogy software is computer software used to record, organize, and publish genealogical data. At a minimum, genealogy software collects the date and place of an individual's birth, marriage, and death, and stores the relationships of individuals to their parents, spouses, and children. Additionally, most genealogy programs handle additional events in an individual's life, free-form notes, and photographs and other multimedia, and source citations. Genealogy software programs can produce a variety of graphical charts and text reports, such as pedigree charts, ahnentafel reports, or Register reports. Some desktop applications generate HTML pages for web publishing; there are stand-alone web applications, as well. Most genealogy programs can import and export using the GEDCOM standard.

Brother Keeper
www.bkwin.org

Family Tree Maker
www.tgn.com

GenoPro
www.genopro.com

Legacy Family Tree
www.legacyfamilytree.com

Reunion
www.leisterpro.com

The Master Genealogist
www.whollygenes.com

*Information from our friends at
Wikipedia.com*

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Have a Query?

E-mail your query to gpgstx@yahoo.com,
Queries will be printed as space allows.

Audit Committee Report

The Financial Audit Report will be presented at the Grand Prairie Genealogical Societies January 2009 meeting. The audit found the societies financial records and accounts to be in excellent shape, Many thanks to our previous treasurer, Regina Shumaker and our current Treasurer, John Cockrum.

Query

Seeking Information:

Seeking information and/or photographs of the long closed Idlewild School that was located on the eastern border of Grand Prairie and the city of Dallas. This school closed when James W. Fannin Elementary in the Grand Prairie Independent School District opened in the early 1950's. If you have information please contact a Grand Prairie Genealogical Society Executive Board Member.

Chuckles

A Freeport man kissed a buxom widow without serving her with notice of his intension, and she hit him over the head with a broomstick so violently that he was in the hospital for two months. Then not thinking that he had been sufficiently punished she maliciously married him.

Marseilles Plain Dealer, July 17, 1903

...

TAPHOPHILIA

Taphophilia is the love of funerals, graves, and cemeteries. A Taphophile is a person who is into Taphophilia. It involves epitaphs, gravestone rubbings, photography, art, and history of famous deaths.

Library Update

Renovations continue on the large meeting room and the area to the west of it. The city is updating the carpet and lighting in both areas, as well as adding a new modular computer classroom. To accommodate the new classroom, the public computer area is moving to the West into the area currently occupied by the DVD collection.

Beginners Time

Grand Prairie Genealogical Society is providing research assistance in the Genealogy Room at the main library. During our November session society members John and Barb Wylie volunteered. Our next Beginners Time will be from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm the third Thursday night of the month, January 22, 2009. To volunteer contact Richard Waller.

Website of Interest

Nevada Census Online

This state government contains online indexes to the state's federal censuses from 1860 through 1920 (except the mostly destroyed 1890 census).

<http://nevadaculture.org/docs/shpo/NVCENSUS/>

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 January 28, 1910 issue.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1910
GRAND PRAIRIE TEXAN**

Rev. I. W. CLARK sold to **J. T. OWENS** a lot 150x150 feet in the Dallas Addition last week, receiving \$260. The deal was made through **P. A. GEEO**.

JESSE SMALL and wife spent Sunday in Fort Worth.

D. A. BRADSHAW had business in Irving Tuesday.

J. A. CORPIER and **H. J. LUCAS** spent Sunday in Grapevine.

Miss MAUD McDOWELL visited relatives in McKinney Sunday.

Miss WILLIE BELL of Eagle Ford visited **Miss LILLIAN LACY** Sunday.

Lot of manure to give to anyone who will haul away. **Livery Stable**

LEON, the little son of **Mr. and Mrs. GEO. FARRENS**, is very sick.

GEO. JENNINGS of Rockwall is visiting **J. R. CORPIER**.

D. A. BRADSHAW went to Duncanville Wednesday on a business mission.

We are glad to report **A. T. HORTON** is able to be up again after several weeks illness.

Miss ANNIE MOORE of Denton spent Sunday with her brother, **J. A. MOORE**.

Mrs. FERRIS returned Saturday from a three months visit to Ellis County.

Miss VEDA DOBKINS of Ft. Worth visited **Misses ANNIE MAE FUGAT** and **RUBY LIVELY** this week.

GEORGE VANCLEAVE of Ft. Worth, formerly of Wheelock, visited the family of **A. T. HORTON** last Sunday.

Now is the time to plant shade trees. Beautify your lots—that will beautify the town.

Mrs. ROY PARHEM and daughter, **INEZ**, of Denison are visitors of the **Misses LIVELY**.

Mrs. A. T. HORTON, who has been very low with bronchial pneumonia, is now convalescing.

W. R. KING is doing considerable improving upon his property and premises in South Grand Prairie.

H. C. SAEMAN, local manager of the telephone system, was in Corsicana Sunday on business for the company.

The following were guests at the home of **J. H. HAEFER** Sunday: **Mr. and Mrs. N. W. NOLLEY** and family, **Mr. and Mrs. JOHN M. SPILLMAN**, **Mr. and Mrs. R. E. VAN HORN**, **FRANK VAN HORN** and **GEO. PURL**.

B. M. BURGHER of Dallas, Tuesday purchased from the **Field Realty Company**, Dallas, 386 acres of land two miles east of Grand Prairie for \$30,600. Three sets of farm improvements are on the land. The **T & P** railway stop, **NUSSBAUMER**, and two Interurban stops are on the land.

Little **CLYDE ROBERTSON**, about two years of age, son of **Mr. and Mrs. JOSH ROBERTSON**, was taken sick with pneumonia last Friday night, from which he died Tuesday night. He was buried Wednesday afternoon at the **Bowles Cemetery**,

Rev. WEST, pastor of the **Baptist Church**, conducted the funeral services. The hurried summons of the little fellow to his reward was a sad blow to the parents, and their many friends join in sympathy because of the bereavement.

G. L. GEE of Vernon, son of our townsman, **Uncle PETE GEE**, was in Dallas calling on the jobbing trade in the furniture line and was here a short while Wednesday.

For fear some one, who does not know **Dr. SPIVEY**, will misunderstand his announcement in last week's issue and think he has only practiced medicine eleven years, we wish to state that he has had more than thirty years practice, eleven years in Grand Prairie.

The **Woman's Home Mission Society** of the **Methodist Church** wishes us to extend thanks through our paper to **Miss LOVA SWADLEY** for her efforts towards the Christmas entertainments and to **S. S. TULLOS** for his donation of a per cent of his Christmas sales to the **Church**.

OSCAR HOPPER of Grand Prairie and **Mrs. CORA LEE WOOTEN** of Grapevine returned last Sunday from a visit to their old home state, Alabama. They report a good time and the people in Alabama said it was too early to talk of farming. Most of their talk was mining and the steel plants.

Mr. A. H. BRANNON and wife have sold to **J. H. OVERSTREET** of Fort Worth 18½ acres of land at \$200 per acre. The land lies southeast of and joins Grand Prairie. **Mr. OVERSTREET** also bought the **T. C. OLIVER** residence and one from **HARRY MOORE**, and one other residence, his purchases amounting to about \$7,000. This property was bought as an investment.

Mr. A. C. BRADFORD of Madisonville was here this week prospecting with a view of locating here. He was very favorably impressed with our town and surroundings and before leaving; he purchased the house and lands of **W. T. WRIGHT**, now occupied by **Mrs. RUBY McDOWELL**. Two vacant lots are included in the deal and **Mr. BRADFORD** contemplates the erection of one or two cottages thereon. Price paid \$1500. He is planning to move to Grand Prairie about March 1st. We are glad to note this deal and also this prospective addition to our citizenship. **Mr. BRADFORD** is a mechanic and has had a number of years experience.

The new Pastor of the **Baptist Church** is greatly encouraged at the signs of life and progress among the members. It is his joy to be among and working with good people who desire to do things for the upbuilding of the **Church**, in particular the cause of Christ in general. "Upward and forward" is their Motto with ill will to no one, but love and good will toward all. Congregations have been steadily increasing and sinners coming to Christ. It is to be hoped all good and loyal **Baptists** will join in with this progressive people and help push things forward.

At her home, 548 Hickory Street, Dallas, **Mrs. ELIZABETH EMERSON** died last Saturday at the age of 49 years, after a lingering illness. The funeral was held from the residence to **Oakland Cemetery** on Sunday afternoon. **Mrs. EMERSON** is survived by a son, **BENNETT EMERSON**, and a daughter, **Mrs. S. E. MYERS**, of Dallas. She was an intimate friend of **Mrs. J. R. BROOKS** of Grand Prairie.

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