



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

Thursday, July 2, 2009
Annual Ant-less Picnic

MAKE YOUR FAVORITE DISH,
CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE TREASURE,
INVITE YOUR FAVORITE FRIEND AND
JOIN GPGS FOR A GREAT NIGHT.

Dinner begins at 6:30
followed by show and tell

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

Grand Prairie Memorial Library
901 Conover Drive, Grand Prairie
Visitors Are Always Welcome

Cynthia Jones
Vice President of Programs

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Dear Uncle Leon-

I have been trying to find my great-grandmother's parents. I have found her on the 1880, 1900, and 1910 census. 1880 census shows her father born in Tennessee; in the 1900 census his place of birth is unknown and in 1910 it shows him born in Mississippi. In 1880 she was a 27 yr old wife living in Delta County Texas with 3 daughters. I know that she was born in Mississippi and my great-grandfather came from Mississippi, but I don't know if they came to Texas together or separately as they married in Delta County. Where would you suggest I start looking for her parents?

~Confused between the States

Dear Confused

I would suggest looking for them in Delta County and surrounding counties unless you can find a marriage in Mississippi or Texas for your grandparents. If your grandparents were not married in Mississippi, it is a good supposition that your grandmother would not have traveled to Texas alone.

"Dear Uncle Leon" is a recurring column in Roots 'n' Branches Newsletter that will attempt to answer your genealogical questions. Please submit questions by e-mail to gpgstx@yahoo.com with Dear Uncle Leon in the subject line, or mail to Dear Uncle Leon at GPGS, PO Box 532026, Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-2026

From the Gavel



I wish I were one of those people who can walk into any kitchen and see what needs to be done—but I’m not. Just this week when our family gathered at our eldest son’s house, his wife and our middle son’s fiancée worked together in the kitchen as though they’d been cooking together for years. They’d met for the first time less than 24 hours earlier! I, who have known our daughter-in-law for 15 years and our future daughter-in-law for almost a decade, had to ask, “What can I do to help?”

I suspect that many of you would like to help the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society, the Grand Prairie Public Library, or genealogy in general, but don’t quite know how you can plug in.

By the time you read this, the GPGS Board will have met, discussed several possible projects for the Society and chosen a few to present for your consideration. We hope to have tasks for members who like to get out and about as well as tasks for those who like sit-down work in air-conditioned comfort.

When you ask, “What can I do to help?” we’ll be ready.

Barb

Barbara Brixey Wylie
President

*Grand Prairie Genealogical Society
is a Partner Society of the
Texas State Genealogical Society*

Financial Report

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

Balance 6-01-09	\$1318.33
Deposits	.00
Expenses	44.00
Balance 7-01-09	\$1274.33

John Cockrum
Treasurer

Name That Person

Can you name this Grand Prairie Genealogical Society member?



Last Month’s photo:
A well bundled Karen Schneider Brown.

Loss of a Friend

Esther Fojt Cunningham



Esther Anna Fojt Smalky Cunningham. "I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one." January 9, 1926 - May 28, 2009 When Esther's devoted and adoring husband Robert returned from a brief afternoon run May

28th, he discovered his lovely wife of 31 years, Esther, had died suddenly in their home. She was fortunate to have been able to continue leading an active and full life until the very end. Esther enjoyed all that life had to offer, combining a passion for travel and adventure with love for the company of her family and friends. She was a world traveler making numerous trips to the Czech Republic and developing ties between GP's sister city Bruno. She studied at Charles University, in Prague, Czech Republic. Memories of her driving a very large black Mercedes (the last car available to rent), throughout Europe make us all smile. Just imagine her driving this impressive vehicle at top speeds over the autobahn's of Germany and the goat paths of the Czech Republic. Oh how she loved to explore. Though Esther had many fine qualities, her trademark was her extraordinary organizational skills. With great aplomb, she hosted an international party, a real "Texas Barbeque" for 350 people in the Moravian section of the Czech Republic. The adventure of transporting all the food and decorations, including mesquite wood, from Texas to Europe, is a testament to her.

Esther participated in athletics by actively cheering husband Bob through 1115 races, 55 of which were marathons. Never failing to send him off with a kiss and greet him at the finish line with praises of his accomplishment. Esther, the eldest of five daughters, was born January 9, 1926 in Anton, TX (the "rabbit capital of Texas") to Ella and Martin Fojt. She met her first husband, Joseph Ivan Smalky, while working

for the U.S. Army at Fort Hood Texas from 1943-1946. They had two children, Michael and Kathleen; She married Robert Z. Cunningham on May 20, 1978. She retired in 1991 from the LTV Credit Union in Grand Prairie, TX, after 30 years. Esther was a member and officer of many organizations, including: the KJT Circle of Czech Women, Sokol Zis Ka Athletic Association, Dallas-Brno Sister Cities Association, Texas Czech Genealogy Society, Ennis Sewing Circle, USS Salem Assc., Chapter 28 NALC Auxiliary, Dallas-Czech Singers, Women of St. Andrews, Grand Prairie Gen, McLendon-Hill Czech Heritage Society.

She is survived by her devoted and loving husband Robert Z. Cunningham; daughter Kathleen Anne Smalky and her husband Ron Tintner; her sisters and their spouses: Jane and Clifford Anderson; Frankie and Tim Morgan, Mary and Hilton Lambeth; as well as 22 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was predeceased by her eldest child, a son, Michael Anthony Smalky and her first husband, Joseph Ivan Smalky. Services: Sunday May 31, 2009 at 1:00 PM at St. Andrews in Grand Prairie. Internment: Monday June 1, 2009 at 3:30pm at Bellwood Cemetery in Temple, TX. Pallbearers: Ron Tintner; Ryan Tintner; Joshua Tintner; Timothy X. Morgan; Stanley Smith; David "Tiny" Lee. Esther treasured her friends and deeply loved her family. Her wish would be that the world would be enveloped in perpetual peace, and that we would all "Live, Love, Laugh and Be Happy."

To honor Esther, please love and care for those you hold dear. For those wishing to make a donation, please send them in Esther's name to: The New England Conservatory of Music, Attention Institutional Advancement Michael A. Smalky M.D. Scholarship Fund, 290 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02115. Pallbearers: Ron Tintner; Ryan Tintner; Joshua Tintner; Timothy Morgan; Stan Smith; David "Tiny" Lee.

Library Liaison

I'm working with Library Director Kathy Ritterhouse to determine the books GPGS can purchase that will fit into her Genealogy Room collection plan.

Stop by the Genealogy Room to see the new digital microfilm viewer/scanner/printer that allows users to copy images directly to a thumb drive or CD. It's not yet operational, but Library staff will be setting up training times in the next few weeks. Look for details in future issues of Roots & Branches. This is a state-of-the-art device that should markedly improve services in the Genealogy Room. I plan to be an early user as I have a couple of rolls of microfilm I'd love to have as digital images on my computer.

John V. Wiley
Library Liaison

Thank You

Thank you to Pam Knight and Carol Franklin for refreshments at our June meeting.

Research Assistance

Grand Prairie Genealogical Society is providing research assistance in the Genealogy Room at the main library. During our May session society members Karen Brown and Richard Waller volunteered. Our next Beginners Time will be from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm the third Thursday night of the month, June 18, 2009.

In The Coming Months

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

August 4th: John and Barb Wylie

Our very own John and Barbara Wylie will be speaking at our August General Meeting.

September 4th:

October 4th:

Cynthia Jones
Vice President of Programs

Query

Texas Jewish Historical Society is seeking information on Jewish Burials in Texas. In 1997, The TJHS published Texas Jewish Burials; the book was a gathering of the records of Jewish Burials in Texas. It contained many graves located in Jewish cemeteries; cemeteries containing Jewish sections or Jewish graves in other cemeteries. The society is updating the information and seeks to locate burials missed and burials that have occurred since 1991. Please send appropriate information to:

Charles B. Hart cbhart635@sbcglobal.net

Kay Goldman kgoldman@mail.bio.tamu.edu

Texas Jewish Historical Society
PO Box 10193
Austin, Texas 78766-0193

Member Profile

Karen's Story

I was born in Michigan during WWII and joined my two older twin brothers to make us a family of five. In the years to come we would be a family of eight with an even number of boys and girls. My parents migrated from central Minnesota several years earlier and came from an agricultural background. My grandparents were dairy farmers and inherited their farms from previous generations. I do remember my mother telling me she had a garden behind the house to raised our vegetables. My father was a machine operator and worked long hours so my mother could run the household with a very rigid and frugal budget which my father said she did very well on his meager wages. Back then everything was rationed and depended on trading some of your coupons with the neighbors or learn to barter for services or materials when necessary. I barely remember the small house. Much of memories were from photographs my parents took during those years.

About the time I started school we moved to a new house and it seemed to grow as the family got larger. My father changed back to his original occupation of plastering contractor after the war and kept building on the second house as he had time and money. He never seemed to have both at the same time but over the years what was a two bedroom house with a bath turned into a three bedroom house with two full baths, a 16 foot by 32 foot formal living room, a formal dining room and a full basement large enough to turn six children loose to make all the noise they wanted without having the neighbors complain. I can remember watching my parents working

together to finish much of the work before their tenth wedding anniversary so they could have their friends over for a big party and dancing. We were sent to bed but the music and party kept us awake and we would peer around the corner to watch all the grownups having a wonderful time.

By the time my older brothers were finishing their adolescent years my parents were planning another move to the country when my father purchased a ten acre farm with 100 apple trees in the front yard. There was lots of room to turn the kids outside to play with a tree swing for each child. There were plenty of places to ride our bicycles and to keep our dog "twinkie" and to have a few other pets, like cows, horses, pigs, sheep, chickens, geese, cats and guppies. The guppies were our inside pets. Oh, and I forgot the parakeets too. Needless to say we were now farmers. We learned to collect eggs from the hen house, to slop the pigs with all kinds of kitchen leftovers and to feed the cows and horses, sheep, geese, chickens, dogs, fish and birds. The cats somehow looked out for themselves. The apple orchard needed work to get crops which we either sold at a little roadside stand or took to downtown Detroit to the farmers market. I learned to drive a tractor long before I learned to drive a car. And all my siblings and I had to pitch in to get "chores" done on a daily, weekly and seasonal basis. The girls learned to do work on the farm outside along with the boys. And the boys learned to do work inside the house along with the girls. There was no discrimination by my parents and I learned to appreciate my rural education after I left home to pursue my on future dreams.

After I finished my formal education I decided I would like to work in the transportation, travel and aviation industry. Since all my brothers were in the United States Air Force, I think we all had aviation in our blood. I soon found my way to Minneapolis, Minnesota to

attend airline school. When I finished I was able to get a job in Chicago, Illinois with American Airlines at O'Hare Airport. I worked there for thirteen years in passenger service jobs when the computer age invaded the transportation industry. When the company completed the transition into VDT (video display terminals) there was a need to have qualified personnel in the computer center in Tulsa, Oklahoma to assist new airport stations with technology so off I went to be a "Data System Controller." During my ten years in Tulsa, Oklahoma I became a part of management and spread my talents into installation of the travel agencies which would put the "Sabre" computers into their offices. It was during this phase of my career the company moved the travel agency installation department to Ft. Worth, Texas. This was a new adventure for me and I could move back to a large metropolitan city. From the Ft. Worth, Texas office I moved on to the computer installation for the internal offices of the company just as the "networking" projects started along with the newest "Internet" connections. Along the way we assisted other airlines and businesses with this technology. After 34 years, 11 months and 22 days the company said it was time to retire and I accepted their offer.

So now I started another passion I had found along the way, genealogy. I was always fascinated to hear stories from my parents and my grandmothers. My maternal grandfather died before the birth of his grandchildren. I only remember seeing my paternal grandfather once when I was about five years old. He was a kindly man with a very soft voice and a warm smile. My grandmothers lived far away but whenever they would visit us or we would visit them it was a grand occasion. And when my grandmothers died aunts and

uncles told us more stories. Each and everyone would add more insights into the past and I enjoyed everybody's contribution to my family history. I have been working with cousins to document our family and I now have about 4,000 people in my database. In 2002, we started a family reunion which everyone likes to attend and we keep working on making each year bigger and better with our family tree prominently displayed for all to see.

I have joined the Todd County Minnesota Historical Society, the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society and the Dallas Genealogical Society to keep me on track. I have taken formal genealogy classes at Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama and studied a week at the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, Utah with the Dallas Genealogical Society. I have been researching mostly in Minnesota and Missouri because of the concentration of records for our family but we are scattered all over the United States. Most of our international roots are in Germany and Poland but much of my husband's family are from the British Isles.

In addition to genealogy I like art, so I paint using watercolors or draw or color using mixed media. I also like to do interior decorating and room designs, sewing, needlework, baking and cooking. I like to collect family pictures from the past and cookbooks with family members who submitted recipes to churches for their cookbooks. If I had more talent I would like to play the piano, but mostly I just listen to music and watch ballroom or social dancing. In the years to come I hope to find more cousins with the same interests, and when I've finished with my collection I'll send it to an archive for future generations to read and add their stories.

Karen Schneider Brown

Workshops/Conferences

**DGS Summer Institute
Land and Court – Special Topics
Lloyd Bockstruck, FNGS & Patricia Law
Hatcher, FUGA**

From colonial land records, land causes, and bounty land to court records, state statutes, and legislative journals.

July 23-25, 2009

**Fort Worth Genealogical Society
Summer Seminar
Trevia Wooster Beverly**

August 1, 2009

Travis Avenue Baptist Church
Fort Worth, Texas

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

September 2-5, 2009

Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center
Little Rock, Arkansas

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

October 23, 2009

Grand Prairie Memorial Library

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

Dear Uncle Leon

Dear Uncle Leon –

I have information that my great-grandfather submitted a Confederate Pension application. Who do I need to contact so I can get a copy of the original application? Are these found in the National Archives?

~Whistling Dixie

Dear Whistling Dixie

Confederate veterans and their widows were allowed to apply for a pension in the state that they resided *at the time of the application* even if they had not served on behalf of that state. Remember that Confederate pensions are administered by the states and not the federal government so those records will be in the individual state archives. The Dallas Public Library is an excellent place to begin your search, as they have many of these records on microfilm including those issued by the state of Texas. I might also comment that a number of southern counties mustered troops for both the Confederate and Union armies (keep an open mind if you do not find a confederate pension your relative might have been a union sympathizer).

Website of Interest

Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation

The Sorenson Database is the foremost collection of genetic genealogy data in the world. Search by DNA results or surname and find your place in the worldwide genetic family tree. <http://www.smgf.org/>

Executive Board Members

EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS:

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Have a Query?

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

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

One on One Research Help

The Angelina County Genealogical Society and Kurth Memorial Library Staff will offer a free workshop on Monday, August 17, from 1 - 6:30 p.m. There will be no formal presentations. Instead, there will be one-on-one help.

*From our friends at **Stirpes**
 Published by 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 February 11, 1910 issues.

Grand Prairie Texan February 11, 1910

The Dallas News of Feb. 4th had the following to say regarding the wedding. Prominent among the pre-Lenten weddings was that of **MISS VIRGINIA BEAUMONT ROBERTS**, only daughter of **Judge and Mrs. JAMES CARROLL ROBERTS**, to **J. THOMAS OWENS**, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. **GEORGE W. OWENS**, which was solemnized last evening at 8 o'clock at St. Matthew's Cathedral before a large assemblage of guests. The marriage united two pioneer families of the city.

The cathedral, about the chancel and along the entrance aisles, was decorated with palms and tropical plants. The bay and orange tree made effective setting for the altar where Japanese narcissi were used for banking.

While the guests were assembling, **DAVID GROVE** at the organ gave a program of hymeneal music. The matron of honor, **Mrs. EVERETT OWENS**, wore her bridal gown of ivory crepe, with tunic drapings of real lace and a flower chaplet of lilies that bound her veil. A shower of carnations and ferns formed her bouquet.

Miss PATSY OWENS, maid of honor, wore a trained gown of white crepe meteor with real lace drapings and lilies of the valley that bound the bridesmaid veil to her hair.

Miss MATT-LESTER SENTER, maid in waiting, wore a blonde lace and batiste gown, made en train, and hung over blue satin with a coronet wreath of forget-me-nots for her veil. She entered with **GARTH RIDDLER**.

Miss LUCY BARHAM, maid in waiting, entered with **ROY BRYAN**, and wore an imported lingerie frock over imported

yellow, with yellow buttercups binding the veil in place.

Miss MARJORIE SCHEMMELPENIG of Plano entered with **NATHAN CHASE**. She wore a trained muslin and lace gown hung over heliotrope silk, with a band of lavender flowers supporting the veil. All of the maids carried debutante clusters of white carnations.

Little Miss ELIZABETH BLAYLOCK, frocked in white lace and pink ribbons, and **Little Miss SYDNEY STEMMONS**, with a white French frock tied with blue ribbons, scattered flower petals from golden arm baskets.

The bride entered on the arm of her father. Her gown of ivory brocaded stain was interwoven with rich seed pearl embroidery. Garlands of roses were hand-worked to the draping about the corsage. Orange blossoms held well in place the cloistered veil; lilies of the valley festooned the ribbons of the rose bouquet. She wore the gift of the groom, a diamond broach.

At the altar she met the groom, attended by **HARVEY GILBERT** of Beaumont, and before **Rev. HARRY T. MOORE**, dean of the cathedral, the vows were sealed.

The ceremony was followed by an informal reception at Hotel Cliff, where relatives and the members of the bridal party only were in attendance, **Mrs. J. C. ROBERTS** wearing a gown of point lace hung over golden satin and touched with turquoise velvet trimmings, was assisted in greeting her guests by **Mrs. GEORGE W. OWENS** and members of the groom's family. During the party hours, **JAMIE ROBERTS**, brother of the bride, sang "Because," from d'Hardelot.

Mr. and Mrs. OWENS left last evening for a visit to New Orleans for the Mardi Gras festivities, followed by a trip to Cuba. They will be at home in this city after March 1st. For

going away, **Mrs. OWENS** was gowned in artichoke green cloth with hat to match.

HOW ABOUT YOURSELF? The Texan has broken all records in the way of securing new subscriptions since January 1st. This leads us to believe that our efforts are being appreciated and that the people have confidence in our ability to make the paper a success.

LEAGUE PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY 13TH: Subject - How to Pray; Leader - **H. J. LUCAS**; Several songs, prayers, Scripture lesson and leader's address; Habit of secret prayer - **S. L. SANDERS**; Faith and forgiveness - **Mrs. J. T. SMITH**; Selected readings on prayer - **Misses CLAUDIE PIERCE** and **MATILDA FAUCHER**; League Benediction.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS: **J. F. WAGGONER** sold to **G. N. DOYAL** last week a lot in East Grand Prairie, he paying \$400. On this property **Mr. DOYAL** is now erecting a home.

CHAS. BANDENBERG bought a lot in East Grand Prairie on which is a two-room cottage. It is not learned whether **Mr. BRANDENBURG** will occupy the place or rent it.

R. L. HIGHT sold to **H. J. LUCAS** one lot 50 x 210 feet northeast of the Methodist Church this week for \$250.

W. H. THOMAS sold to **P. A. GEE** three and one-half lots west of the school building for \$375.

ERNEST SHIPLEY bought two lots last week from **P. A. GEE** near the school building, paying \$425 therefor. He contemplates the erection of two cottages thereon in the near future.

Mr. A. C. BUSBY and wife sold this week to **J. H. FAULKNER** and wife lots 4 and 5 in block C, **THOMAS'** first edition to Grand Prairie, consideration \$750.

THE PRISCILLA CLUB ENTERTAINED: At the residence of **Mrs. JACK HERR** on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 1st, the Priscilla club was most delightfully entertained. For two hours the ladies chatted over their needlework when they were invited to the dining room, where the hostess, assisted by her mother, **Mrs. MESSMER**, of Indianapolis, Ind., served a two course luncheon. The table was spread with a centerpiece of pluny lace over rose satin. Carnations and ferns were the flowers chosen.

The ladies were entertained by **Mrs. E. M. HENLEY** on yesterday afternoon.

LOCAL NEWS: **JESSE FORD** is very sick with pneumonia.

Mrs. S. S. TULLOS is visiting her father at Weatherford.

Miss ANNIE MAE FUGGETT is visiting in Norman, Okla.

Screen wire in any quantity at **LUCAS'**; lowest prices.

Mrs. RUBY and **Miss MAUDE McDOWELL** spent Sunday in Garland.

ELZIE GUM of McKinney spent Sunday at the home of **C. H. FORD**.

Extractions from the February 11, 1910 issue of the "Grand Prairie Texan" will continue in the August 2009 issue of Roots 'n Branches.