

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

July 1, 2010



Our World Famous Ant-less Picnic

Otherwise known as our
**It's July in Texas, it's too hot outside, Indoor
 Air-conditioned Covered Dish Dinner**

Join us in the main meeting room of the Grand Prairie Memorial Library for our annual covered dish "Picnic". Remember to bring something to share after dinner. This could include photos, items handed down by family members, scrapbook pages, family histories, or audio and video memories.

Conversation at 6:30 PM
 Dinner at 7:00 PM
 Show and Tell to Follow

Grand Prairie Memorial Library
 901 Conover Drive, Grand Prairie

Visitors Are Always Welcome

*Rena Yarach
 Vice President of Programs*

Calendar Conversion Websites

Rosetta Calendar Converter

Rosetta Calendar is named after the Rosetta Stone, an ancient tablet found in Egypt. It allowed scholars to finally decipher hieroglyphics because it contains the same message written in hieroglyphics, demotic and Greek, just as Rosetta Calendar displays the same date in multiple calendar systems.

<http://www.rosettacalendar.com/>

Fourmilab Calendar Converter

Converts between Gregorian, Julian, Hebrew, Islamic, Persian, Mayan, Bahai, Indian Civil, and French Republican Dates

<http://www.fourmilab.ch/documents/calendar/>

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From the Gavel

While eating a Dove chocolate, I read the words of wisdom on the wrapper - - - “Keep moving forward; don’t look back”. Obviously this wasn’t written with genealogy in mind because it is necessary to “look back” and back and back and back. The Society will “keep moving forward” as we research, share new ideas, learn from each other and continue our projects.

Looking forward to the 4th of July, my brain starts humming the words “born on the 4th of July”. Entering the phrase in google, I found:

He’s a Yankee Doodle Dandy,
 a Yankee Doodle do or die.
 A real live nephew of his uncle Sam,
 born on the 4th of July.

Lyrics by George M. Cohan (1904)

During the month of July, may you find the time to “look back” and research your ancestors who lived during the founding of our nation.

*Regina Shumaker
 President 2010-2011*



Independence Day honors the birthday of the United States of America and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. It’s a day of picnics and patriotic parades, a night of concerts and fireworks, and a reason to fly the American flag.

http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Independence_Day.shtml

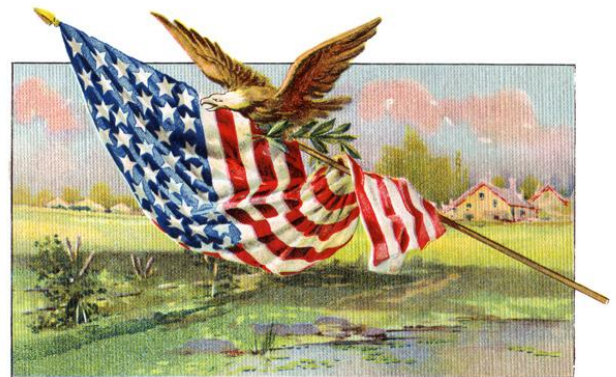
In Memoriam

Bruce Pastusek 1960 - 2010



Bruce Pastusek, a technician for Fitt Exercise Equipment Co., passed away Sunday, June 20, 2010, at the age of 50. Interment: Moore Memorial Garden. Memorials:

Please consider donations to UCV Flags Project, Texas Division SCV, Adjutant Ray Wainner, 505 Dresden Wood Drive, Boerne, Texas 78006-5878. Bruce was born in Wichita Falls on April 25, 1960, son of the late Frank and Loraine Pastusek. He grew up in Wichita Falls, was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, a 1978 graduate of Notre Dame High School and attended Midwestern University. Bruce was active in Sons of Confederate Veterans, Mid-Cities Bluebonnet 2429 UDC, Texas Division UDC, Order of Confederate Rose, Arlington Historical Society, Arlington Preservation Foundation, Arlington Independence Day Parade Association, Texas Civil War Museum volunteer and the Artillery Re-Enactment Unit. Survivors: His sister, Florence P. Merritt and her husband, Richard; twin brother, Louis Pastusek and his wife, Judy; brother, Stanley Pastusek; nephews; and nieces.



*For mothers, wives and children, for home and country pride
 Our flag will guard the freedom of land and ocean wide.*

In The Coming Months

August 5, 2010 Nancy Maxwell
 "Using directories to locate people and family"

Nancy Maxwell is the Genealogy Librarian at the Grapevine Public Library in Grapevine, Texas. Nancy has been doing her, her husband's, and her half-sister-in-law's genealogy since 1981. Her ancestry is Russian Jewish and Turkish Armenian, both of which have been extremely challenging and rewarding.

She received her Bachelor of Arts in English from California State University, Fullerton and Master of Science in Library Science from the University of Southern California. She caught the genealogy bug in 1981 and has been at it ever since!

She has been the genealogy librarian at Grapevine Public Library since July 2001, and is the liaison between the library and Grapevine Name Droppers, a group of genealogy buffs who meet the second Monday of the month to hear speakers on a variety of topics of genealogical interest. She gives talks to this group as well as numerous outside groups. She is a great believer in getting kids to take up genealogical research and has spoken to Cub and Boy Scouts and middle schoolers about the joys of genealogy.

Nancy has compiled two books that have been published by Heritage Books; *Washington County, Arkansas Sheriff's Census for 1865* and *Washington County, Arkansas Miscellaneous Record Book, 1841-1879*.

September 2, 2010 Sandra Crowley
 "Wicked Weather"

She will tell stories about how weather events may have influenced the movements of your

ancestors. Sandra Crowley holds a business degree from the University of Memphis and is a former Vice President of Marketing and Communications of several Minnesota technology companies. She has also consulted for Hewlett-Packard, Gelco Expense Management and other computer hardware and software businesses. She was born in Tennessee and lived in Minnesota for 20 years before settling in Texas in 2002. She works part-time, speaks frequently about technology and genealogy, is on the board of several non-profit organizations, and teaches PowerPoint and Online Genealogy/Family Tree Maker classes at Tarrant County College. She enjoys combining her passion for technology and digital imaging with her love of Family history and research.

October 7, 2010
 GPGS In House Genealogy Research Night

Use our local Resources to find who/what you are searching for in your Family History. PLEASE complete the Sign Up sheet available on the Sign In Table in July, August & September. We need to know the Counties and States you will be researching at the meeting.

The appropriate books will be pulled for you from our GP Library, checked out to GPGS and placed on the tables in our meeting room for the night.

November 4, 2010

December 2, 2010
 Annual Covered Dish Dinner

January 6, 2011

February 3, 2011

March 3, 2011 Pamela Knight
 Cemetery Dowsing

Rena Yarach
 Vice President of Programs

The Folks Who Made Grand Prairie

Helen Jolly Nelson

Nestled in the center of Grand Prairie, sits a beautiful old home built in 1903 for one of Grand Prairie's founding families, the Dechmans. It is now home to Family Birth Services. Opened in 1981, it is a home where women can find an alternative to hospital births. Inside, owner Helen Jolly Nelson has created a welcoming warm atmosphere for a business that enjoys watching miracles. Helen Jolly Nelson has delivered more than 2700 babies.

Hearing her speak about her family and her experience as a midwife, you see her great faith and sustaining passion. As she browses through a box of pictures, letters, graduation invitations and cards, the stories pour out. The first baby expected to be born at the Birth Center was in a hurry and emerged on I-20. One father was unsure about having a baby outside the hospital until he talked with Helen. Twins she delivered helped install a new roof on the Family Birth Service house 22 years later. The talented Sterling Trent went to the Julliard School in New York. Shea Yarborough was Miss Teen Argyle 2000. The largest baby she delivered was 16 lbs., 12 oz. but didn't make the Guinness Book of World Records. Then there's the baby she delivered 21 years to the day after she had delivered the mother.



Helen Jolly Nelson was born in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Her grandparents were farmers who migrated from Indiana. She has one brother and her mother turned 94 in 2008. She graduated from Holy Angels Academy.

As a child, she loved math but the school was so small, second year algebra was taught only if all students enrolled. Helen was resourceful and promised to help her fellow students if they would agree. Thus, she got the advanced class and in high school tutored math to both high school and college students.

Helen came to Texas because of her first husband's job and raised her five children here. She had a home birth in 1971 and then began helping others who were interested in doing the same. By 1976, she had decided that midwifery was what she wanted to do with her life. She trained with a family doctor and a labor and delivery nurse in Dallas.

She immersed herself in her new profession. Having been involved with the Le Leche League in Illinois, Helen formed a local group here. She helped start the North Texas Midwife Association in 1976 and was involved in the formation of the Association of Texas Midwives in 1979. Two years later, this energetic, dedicated woman was a principal in the formation of the Midwives Alliance of North America. As a teacher, mentor and a member of the Association of Texas Midwives, she played a part in helping the State of Texas develop the standards for Midwifery licensing as well as writing curriculum for the Department of Health's requirements for Direct Entry Midwives.

Helen doesn't just show up at a birth; she's involved in helping her clients throughout their pregnancy and training others to do the same. She has trained approximately 80 midwives, many of whom have gone on to open their own facilities.

In 1989, Betty Beasley, her Office Manager, said "She has empowered women to have the kind of birth experience they've only dreamt about. She gives them hope, love, and understanding. She also has given the men a chance to be an

important part of their child's birth. Grandmothers, aunts, siblings and other family members have a chance to be a part of it also."

Each baby and its family are important to Helen but her own family is most important. She was a single mom for some time before meeting her second husband. They spent a lot of those first days at baseball games watching the Rangers with her children. Now they have another team to cheer on—the Grand Prairie Airhogs.

She has been present or involved in the delivery of her four grandchildren. She helped deliver both grandsons. When her first granddaughter was born, her son and daughter-in-law told her that they wanted her to be able to "just be a grandma" at this home birth. And she was. A broken ankle kept from delivering the other granddaughter but it didn't prevent her from being nearby.

In her spare time, Helen reads, cooks, plays duplicate bridge, and teaches bridge. That's if she's not at Lake Fork, relaxing in their RV and entertaining family and friends. Or you might find her at the National Bridge tournament in Las Vegas.

Submitted by Pamela Knight

Cemetery Project

The GPGS Cemetery Committee and a great group of volunteers are working hard on canvassing cemeteries in Grand Prairie for the society's cemetery project. Recent work has been done in Jordan-Hight Cemetery in the North East portion of Grand Prairie as well as Estes Cemetery on the peninsula of Lake Joe Pool in the far South portion of Grand Prairie. Thanks to everyone who is working on this project.

Executive Board Members

EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

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

Financial Report

Below is the corrected Grand Prairie Genealogical Society Finance Report presented at our May meeting:

Balance on 05-1-10	\$1,512.52
Deposits	7.50
Expenses	50.00
Balance on 05-31-10	\$1,470.02

Shirley Willingham
Treasurer

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.

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

Workshops/Conferences

Dallas Genealogical Society
Summer Institute 2010
John T. Humphrey
German Genealogical Research
July 22-24, 2010
\$200 per member
\$230 for nonmembers
www.dallasgenealogy.org

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Fort Worth Genealogical Society
Summer Seminar
Lloyd Bockstruck
North Carolina and it's People:
Scots-Irish, Quakers, Tories and Patriots
Saturday, August 14, 2010
Trinity Terrace Retirement Center
Fort Worth, Texas
\$40.00 If paid by July 31, 2010
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/html/2010-summer-seminar.html>

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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>

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Texas State Genealogical Society
November 4-6, 2010
50th Birthday Celebration
Bridging Generations Waco, Texas
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsgs/>

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 March 4, 1910 issue.

GRAND PRAIRIE TEXAN FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1910

MOUNTAIN CREEK LOCALS

The little LEWIS child that was severely burned last week is reported worse, having broken out with the measles.

G. R. LOOPER made a flying trip to Mansfield on business Saturday.

Lee HARRIS and a Mr. LEWIS were in Dallas on business Saturday.

G. N. VICTORY was called to Tulsa, Okla., Friday on account of the serious illness of his sister who was reported to be dieing.

W. E., T. R. PETERSON and Bert OTHER are ported quite sick this week, but not of a serious nature.

LOCAL NEWS

Charlie COOMER spent Sunday in Garland.

Mr. A. H. PAYNE is one of our new subscribers this week.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Joe LINDENDRATT, on Tuesday, a girl.

Mrs. H. J. BURGOON of Grapevine visited Mrs. H. J. LUCAS Sunday.

Several severe cases of grippe are reported this week, but nothing serious.

Mr. M. P. HAYES and little son, Richard, of Dallas spent Sunday with Mrs. R. E. MEANS.

Miss Mae McDOWELL of Dallas spent Sunday with her sister, Miss MAUDE McDOWELL.

Charlie WALKER and Miss Lula JORDAN of Pickaway were married Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Miss Annie SHRAM returned to Grand Prairie Tuesday after two weeks absence in New Mexico.

W. R. KING has installed a gasoline engine and tank at his residence in South Grand Prairie to facilitate water problems.

The Texas & Pacific is putting the finishing touches on the depot this week, having a crew of men at work painting it both inside and outside.

Mrs. Surry McGLOSSON of Nash is visiting Mrs. J. E. PAYNE and other old friends this week. Mrs. McGLOSSON's husband was formerly depot agent here for several years.

Grand Prairie was well represented in Dallas at the "Shepherd King," as a number of couple having attended the opera and report it an excellent exhibition of dramatic act.

T. G. COLLINS made a tour of the Fish Creek and Arlington communities on Monday of this week, and reports the farmers are busy getting everything ready for early planting.

Mr. and Mrs. H. V. JAMESON and E. H. HOPPER spent Sunday in Reinhardt. They report a fine meeting in progress there and that much good is being accomplished thereby.

Word has been received from A. C. BRADFORD of Madisonville, who has purchased the WRIGHT place and who had planned to move here about March 1st, that on account of the illness of Mrs. BRADFORD's mother, they will be delayed indefinitely in moving.

The little daughter of Mrs. FORT of near Arlington, died Wednesday from the effects of burns received. Mrs. FORT is a sister of Mrs. D. M. MILLER. We were unable to learn further particulars.

Ina LEWIS, the little six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Simon LEWIS of Oklahoma who, with her parents, have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. June VICKERY, died Tuesday from the effects of burns received last week.

LOST:

Tuesday Morning between Interurban depot and my home, a small ladies' purse containing some small change and an application for P. O. money order signed by Mrs. M. E. BROOKS. If found, please return to Mrs. J. R. BROOKS.

PROF. ELY is doing an important work in Grand Prairie in connection with the practice at the Methodist Church. Let all who can take part in the practice and in the regular work of the Church. Good singing is just as essential as good preaching.

R. L. KEITH, after being out of the gravel business for some weeks, last week presented himself with two fine spans of mules, and is now prepared to haul gravel better than ever. Bob is a jolly good fellow and when you need anything in his line, give him a call.

Several of the boys concluded they would go to Fort Worth Friday night and lynch a negro, but upon reaching the Panther city, they dropped into moving picture shows and other places of amusements and returned without the scalp.

Mrs. Charlie FRARER of the Shady Grove community died Monday afternoon of pneumonia and was buried at the Shady Grove cemetery Tuesday. Rev. I. W. CLARK conducted the funeral ceremony. Mrs. FRARER was an excellent woman who was held in high esteem by all who knew her.

Rev. and Mrs. George WEST are in Dallas this week attending the lectures on teacher

training and B.Y.P.U. work that is being given under the auspices of the city Sunday School union of that city, and a gift of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist convention.

HELLO GRAND PRAIRIE

I am organizing a lodge here for the Knights and Ladies of Honor. All acceptable white men and women between 17 and 55 years of age are eligible. If you are 17 years old and nearer the 18th birthday, you may join. M. S. O'BRIEN, Dist. Organizer. Present address Grand Prairie, Tex. Permanent address Dallas, Texas. Phone Main 6124.

BEAR CREEK SIFTINGS

The farmers are almost through planting corn and the fine rain recently put them in high hopes.

A. M. WOMACK made a flying trip to Fort Worth this week via the Interurban.

Miss Bertha TOLIVER visited home folks Saturday and Sunday.

Cam SILLEN and Ross BARTON made a business trip to the Shady Grove neighborhood Saturday.

Grandpa KEASE of your city was looking after his farm interests here this week.

J. S. TURK, who lives two miles south of Grand Prairie, was here recently on business. Call again, John, when you haven't the time to stay so long, unless you have a supply of "Star Navy."

Ed CASTEN of Route 1 was in your town Saturday on business.

Extractions from the March 4, 1910 issue of the "Grand Prairie Texan" will continue in the January 2010 issue of Roots 'n Branches.