



Roots 'n' Branches

Your Award Winning Newsletter!

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

March 2009

Volume 34

Issue 3

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Judy Allen Knight Footnote.com and NARA Records

Judy Allen Knight will speak about "Footnote.com and NARA Digitize Records". She will explain what is available on this website and how it compares to other online resources. Judy has over 30 years experience researching family history; teaches genealogy at Tarrant Community College, Southeast Campus; President of Historic W.V.S. Allen Cemetery Association; Past President of Mid-Cities Genealogical Society in Euless, Texas; and Past District 11 Representative of Texas State Genealogical Society.

GRAND PRAIRIE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
GRAND PRAIRIE MEMORIAL LIBRARY
901 CONOVER DRIVE

Refreshments will be provided by
 Tom and Elena Cogdell
 Ruth and Wally Goodman

Regina Shumaker
Vice President of Programs



Happy Spring!

New Webmaster

Society President Pam Knight announced last week that Karen Brown has agreed to be our webmaster for the remainder of this Board year. Please welcome her to the Board!

Library Renovations

The renovations to the large meeting room in the East end of the library is complete as well as the new glass computer lab.

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From the Gavel

NEW GROWTH

Well, it's that time of year again. We are already seeing signs of spring. It is time for new growth. And the same is true with GPGS. It is time to pull together a nominating committee that can suggest a slate of officers that can take over the reins of leadership in the upcoming year.

I have to say that this year has gone by quickly and has been both exciting and challenging. The amount of talent within GPGS is amazing. We have a group of people with wonderful ideas for growing the society as well as supporting it with different projects. I believe it takes all of us in these efforts. I certainly could not have accomplished much without the participation of the board and membership.

Nor would I have had near as much fun. It has been such a joy working on different projects, getting to know more of the membership and seeing new people join.

The usual tendency when elections come around is to run and hide from another obligation or responsibility. I hope that won't be the attitude of any GPGS member as you could be missing out on a great deal. I would encourage everyone to get involved. Your ideas and energy are just what GPGS needs in the coming year. We have the opportunity to grow our society to be a shining example in the Metroplex. We want other societies to ask "What is Grand Prairie doing to grow while societies in general are shrinking?" To be that example, we need YOU! Please take a minute and think how you can help in the coming year. An officer? A Director? A Committee Chair? Answering queries? Volunteering to greet people? Helping others with research on the 3rd Thursday? Teaching a workshop at the Lock-in? Helping with a fundraiser project?

I hope you will throw off the "usual tendency" and join the fun and excitement in the

coming year. As you sign in at the meeting, sign up to help us grow GPGS into a shining example this next year.

Pamela Knight
President

Collection Donations

Donated by the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society to honor Maxine Robertson were:

North and South Carolina Marriage Records by William M Clemens and *History of Old Pendleton District South Carolina* by R. W. Simpson.

John Wylie donated *Librarian's Genealogy Desk Reference* by Laura Prescott.

John V. Wylie
Library Liaison

Query

Extractions of the 1910 Grand Prairie Texan listed the following announcement:

ROSE HILL CEMETERY, 1/4 mile north of Grand Prairie. **J. W. JONES**, Prop. The land is paid for and the streets and walks dedicated to the public forever. **Mr. JONES** agrees to build a substantial fence around the cemetery and to allow no stock to run loose within the enclosure.

Anyone with information about this cemetery, please direct your replies to Newsletter Editor at gpgstx@yahoo.com

Genealogy:
A hay stack full of needles.
It's the threads I need.

Member Profile

Shirley Jean WALLACE Willingham

Shirley was born to a Scot-Irish farmer (Bernie WALLACE) and his Belgian wife (Marie HAECK) in Williamsburg, Iowa. She was the second of four children and the only girl.

When Shirley was five, she and her family moved to central New Mexico due to her Asthmatic father's health. Those first years were really tough with no money, dealing with blowing sand and trying to build a producing farm in the desert that would support the family. Her father persevered and succeeded with building a good farm. His health improved and several years later he was named farmer of the year.

Shirley grew up on that farm, going to elementary school in Willard, a small village nearby and was then bused to high school in Estancia, N.M. She loved school, was involved in most school activities and was a cheer leader all through high school.

At the age of ten, she had to have an Appendectomy and that set her off on a quest to become a nurse. It was a difficult choice, as her parents were still struggling on the farm and could not pay the high tuition. She finally found a school in San Angelo, Texas that would furnish books, uniforms and would work with her on a time payment plan. She was off to school! This would change her life forever, as she not only graduated as a Registered Nurse, but met and married a "good old boy" from Waco, Preston Wayne WILLINGHAM, who was stationed in San Angelo at Goodfellow Air Force Base.

Wayne promised to show her the world, but all they saw was more of Texas! First,

they were sent to Harlingen, TX., where their first son, David Wayne WILLINGHAM, was born. Then they were sent to Denver, Colo. For a short time, then right back to Abilene, TX and their second son, John Edward WILLINGHAM, was born. Their little family was now complete - or so they thought!

After ten years in the Air Force, they decided to try civilian life and settled in Corpus Christi, TX. They soon discovered that they missed the military life, so Wayne joined the Navy. Remember, they were going to see the world! As it turned out Wayne got to see the world and Shirley got to see more of Texas and New Mexico. A week after Wayne left for the Navy, Hurricane Carla hit the Corpus area and Shirley had a lot of cleaning up and repairs to do! That year was the first of many long separations, usually 8 to 10 months long. She learned really fast how to multi task with working, running a home, kids school and church.

The Navy sent Wayne to the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Italy, France, Greece, the Holy Land, then Hawaii, Philippines, Hong Kong, Korea, Viet Nam and many other Asian ports. Shirley was seeing Texas and the states between duty stations, which included Virginia Beach, VA, Memphis, Tenn., and Whidbey Island, Washington. She got to see the world - Ha!

They were living on Whidbey Island and in the town of Oak Harbor, Wash. when they were surprised with the birth of their third son, Michael Lee WILLINGHAM. One good thing about all the moving around, Shirley got to work in many different hospitals and doctor's offices and meet so many interesting people from all over the U.S.

After ten years in the Navy, Wayne retired and the family came back to Texas. He was hired to teach in Dallas and they settled in Grand Prairie. That was 36 years ago and we

are still here, in the same house! No more moving for us! I worked for both Grand Prairie hospitals for a total of 26 years.

My interest in Genealogy was started after reading the Civil War letters from Wayne's GGGrandfather to his family. The family did not know much about him and I wanted to know more! I've been at it ever since and as you know, once you start - you can't stop!

Name That Person

Can you name this Grand Prairie Genealogical Society member?



Last Month's photo:
A very cute Shirley Willingham

Workshops/Conferences

Dallas Genealogical Society

Gay E. Carter

Government Documents

March 21, 2009

J. Erik Jonsson Central Dallas Public Library

City of Grand Prairie's

Celebrating A Century Celebration

March 28, 4-10 pm

Airhogs Ballpark

1600 Lone Star Parkway

Grand Prairie, Texas

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc

Preserving Our Precious Heirlooms

Saturday, April 18, 2009

Naomi Taplin and Alan Lefever

Plano Bible Chapel

1900 Shiloh Road

Plano Texas

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

Grand Prairie Genealogical Society

Centennial Celebration Lock-In

October 23, 2009

Grand Prairie Memorial Library

100 Years of Grand Prairie

The City of Grand Prairie is celebrating its 100 years of incorporation in 2009 with a variety of celebrations. Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 28, 4-10 p.m., for the main Celebrating a Century Celebration at the Airhogs ballpark, 1600 Lone Star Parkway. Bring the family for rides, games, food, demonstrations, displays, concerts, and Fireworks. The \$1 per person admission fee will be waived with your donation of a canned good. Dress in the decade of your choice! Call 972-237-8100 for more information. The Grand Prairie Genealogical Society will be participating in this kick-off event for the cities 100 year celebration.

In The Coming Months

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

April 2nd:

Bruce Pastusek be our guest speaker and will be in partial confederate civil war uniform plus bring authentic civil war weaponry.

May 7th:

Society members, Doris Kettlehut, Karen Hamilton and Jan Barrett will share research experiences from their 2008 road trip across several states.

*Regina Shumaker
Vice President of Programs*

Thank You

Thank you to Peggy Norcross for her help with the January Refreshments. Many thanks to Glen and Jean Simpson our for February refreshments.

Executive Board Members

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Have a Query?

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

Finance Report

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

Balance 1-31-09	\$ 1,499.76
Deposits	\$ 15.00
Expenses	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Balance 2-28-09	\$ 1,464.76

John Cockrum
Treasurer

Chuckles

Ed McMahon, several TV cameras, and an envelope from Publishers Clearing House arrive at your front door on Super Bowl Sunday, and the first thing you say is, "Are you related to the McMahons of Ohio?".

Research Assistance

Grand Prairie Genealogical Society is providing research assistance in the Genealogy Room at the main library. During our February session society members Regina Shumaker, John and Barb Wylie, Karen Brown and Pam Knight volunteered. Our next Beginners Time will be from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm the third Thursday night of the month, March 19, 2009. If you would like to volunteer contact Richard Waller at 214-417-7015.

Heredity: Everyone believes in it until their children act like fools!

Dear Uncle Leon

Dear Uncle Leon,

I have been researching my family history for over 25 years and have several brick walls. Should I recheck records collections that I have researched in the past in an effort to break down these walls?

~Stuck

Dear Stuck, I *would* suggest rechecking any records that are available on the internet. Many records you researched in the past may now be digitized and on the internet. Records on the internet can be searched for your surname and give you a greater chance of finding a relevant entry. Many older records now have an index and these indexes will also greatly improve your chances of success. Remember to document where you find your record.

~Happy Searching.

Member News

Welcome to our new member Ruth Lloyd. Ruth gave a great talk about her Holocaust surviving parents at our February society meeting.

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 4, 1910 issues.

FRIDAY, February 4, 1910
GRAND PRAIRIE TEXAN

MOUNTAIN CREEK LOCALE

G. R. LOOPER went to Britton Sunday where he spent a few days with friends.

Mrs. LEE HARRIS is reported on the sick list this week.

G. N. VICTORY went to Dallas Saturday to spend a few days with home folks.

Mrs. VIOLA COLE spent Sunday with **J. W. COLE** and family.

Our people are in high spirits on account of the splendid rain Tuesday night. **RED BIRD**

FROM FISH CREEK

Mrs. R. W. COLE is on the sick list this week.

M. H. COLE left Monday for Britton on a prospecting trip.

Mesdames B. L. and **J. H. VINSELL** spent Thursday with **Mrs. J. P. GOINS**.

Miss VIOLA COLE spent Saturday and Sunday with her sister on the mountain.

Mrs. J. H. VINSELL was called by phone Saturday to the bedside of her sister, **Mrs. FANNIE SPROWLS**, at Weatherford.

The farmers are making considerable preparations for another crop and the rain is certainly fine for these preparations. **BLUE BIRD**

Smile and the world smiles with you, "knock" and you go alone, for the cheerful grin will let you in where the knocker is never known. Growl and the way looks dreary; laugh and the path is bright; for a wholesome smile shuts out the light. Smile

and the world is harmonious, grumble and things go wrong, all the time you are of rhyme with the busy hustling throng. Kick and there's trouble brewing; whistle and life is gay, and the world's in tune like a day in June and the clouds all melt away. Selected.

We have a number of people here every week prospecting, and a good many purchased property in and near Grand Prairie from a garden spot up to a section as an investment. Now, of course, we all know this is one of the best places in the world for investments, and we don't have to argue the question, either. But we are not after the mere investors—people who never come here except when their business demands it. What we want are people that will come here and live—help make our town grow and prosper, and do something to help us grow.

It is stated authoratively that the **Northern Texas Traction Company** contemplates, in the very near future, expending \$1,000,000 in improvements on its line between Dallas and Fort Worth. It is hoped a station building commensurate with the growing demands of Grand Prairie is included in this improvement. Since the Texas & Pacific depot has been completed, it makes the little insignificant Interurban depot look like a "dog house" sure enough. We have confidence enough in the Interurban management to believe they will do the right thing by us in improvement and will patiently wait developments in this thought of plan. But in the meantime our patience has almost been exhausted in waiting for these betterments. Therefore, we had rather see them than hear talk of them.

The Texan acknowledges receipt of a dainty little token, bearing the following announcement: **Mr. and Mrs. ROBERT HENRY RICHARDSON** announcing the arrival of **ROBERT HENRY, JR.**, January 26, 1910, Kemp, Texas. **Mr. RICHARDSON** is editor of the Kemp News and The Texan

congratulates the proud parents upon the new arrival. May **ROBERT HENRY, JR.** inherit the good traits of those whose son he is.

On Thursday afternoon of last week, **Mrs. J. T. HARSTON** entertained at her home in West Grand Prairie, honoring the ladies of the **Priscilla Club**. The afternoon was spent in needle work of various kinds led by a jovial conversation. A salad course was served to the following Club members and guests, **Mesdames J. J. FAGAN, G. A. SPIVEY, W. B. MONTGOMERY, E. M. HENLEY, S. A. FISHBURN, H. CLARK** of Little Rock, Ark., **CHAS. L. HOLLAND, T. S. SMART, H. F. DREW, R. E. MEANS, RUSS, J. M. HERR, A. L. MESMER, G. N. SOXMAN** of Dallas, **G. LIGGETT, J. T. SMITH, J. B. POOL** and the hostess. The Club met this week with **Mrs. HERR**.

Lack of space forbids us to print the **Epworth League** program this week. The subject is "How to Watch," Matt. 24:42; Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2. Leader, **J. T. SMITH**

Richardson jumped to fourth place in payment of polls outside of the city. Garland, Lancaster and Grand Prairie being ahead of us yet; Mesquite is left in the rear, with Cedar Hill and Irving not in hailing distance. We believe that Richardson is a more loyal town than Grand Prairie. We have just as many people and if our people can be aroused in time, we will show to all that we are the third town on the map in Dallas County - Richardson Echo. Just wait until the poll lists are completed. Grand Prairie didn't miss the 300 mark but very few votes and has a good chance at the second place.

LOCAL NEWS

S. L. SANDERS is on the jury this week.

Mrs. MINYARD of West, Texas, is visiting **Mrs. R. H. BADGETT**.

RATHER KILGORE of Oak Cliff spent Sunday with **LEE THOMAS**.

FOR SALE—Good Second hand sewing machine. **S. A. FISHBURN**

Miss EDITH FORD is visiting her sister, **Mrs. GUM** at McKinney this week.

FOR SALE—Three-room house, large lot. Will give terms. **J. J. FAGAN**

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. SPENCER of Dallas are visiting their daughter, **Mrs. J. C. SIKES**.

WANTED—to buy a few horses and mules. Will pay highest market prices. **D. A. BRADSHAW**

Prof. W. W. CROMER of Fort Worth was a visitor in Grand Prairie.

Misses JESSIE WEATHERFORD and **EULA BLAND** of Fort Worth visited **Mrs. J. T. SMITH** Sunday.

H. ANDERSON of Garland is visiting his daughter, **Mrs. RUBY McDOWELL**, this week.

For low prices on all kinds of harness, see **J. E. RATCLIFF**, the price maker, 155 Commerce St., Dallas.

Deputy City Assessor **J. R. CORPIER** is making the rounds of the city taking assessments for 1910.

ROSE HILL CEMETERY, 1/4 mile north of Grand Prairie. **J. W. JONES**, Prop. The land is paid for and the streets and walks dedicated to the public forever. **Mr. JONES** agrees to build a substantial fence around the cemetery and to allow no stock to run loose within the enclosure.

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