



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, September 3, 2009

Glenn Kinkade

Perils, Paradoxes, and Pitfalls in Probate Records

Probate records can be the most valuable records a genealogist can find: however, they can also be misunderstood, scattered in several places, and confusing. This presentation will cover the probate process from the colonial period to the mid-19th century. Participants will learn techniques in locating, reading, understanding and analyzing probate records. Examples of unusual, humorous and misleading wills will be reviewed. Glenn Kinkade is an experienced genealogical researcher, lecturer, author, and college instructor. He graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Wichita State University. After serving as an officer in the United States Air Force, he joined IBM in 1960 in Kansas City, Mo. In 1990 he retired from IBM.

Refreshments at 6:30 pm

Provided By Karen Brown and
Becky and Beau Garland
Program begins at 7:00 pm

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

Cynthia Jones
Vice President of Programs

Lock-In Committee Requests:

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 Lock-In, please bring an empty ink cartridge to the next meeting. We can be earth friendly plus reduce the expenses for the Lock-In.

Old CD's and DVD's Needed

Have old CD's and DVD's, received any internet start up CD's in the mail? Your Lock-In Committee needs them to decorate for our upcoming event. Please bring all your old discs to our September meeting.

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From the Gavel

His name has been lost to history but his advice is still good: “Define the task. Find people who have the desired skills. Tell them to update you periodically. Get out of their way and let them get the job done.”

As most of you know, I had surgery on my cervical spine a month ago so I’ve been out of *everyone’s* way the last few weeks but GPGS chose good leaders and they’ve been getting the job done.

Karen Brown, as Chair of the Lock-in, and committee members Regina Shumaker, Shirley Willingham, Carol Franklin and John Wylie are planning a Lock-in with one-on-one help, time to explore the library’s resources and, of course, snacks. Our Lock-in is part of Grand Prairie’s Centennial Event and you’ll soon be learning more exciting details because the posters and flyers are being designed now.

Chair of the Cemetery Project, Regina Shumaker, and committee members Tom Cogdill, Bonnie Cockrum, Carol Franklin, Pam Knight, Trish Nunn and Richard Waller have determined which of Grand Prairie’s cemeteries were indexed by GPGS years ago and need updating and which ones have never been indexed. They are ferreting out articles and videos that share tips and techniques for projects such as this, saving most of their cemetery walking for milder weather.

Librarian Kathy Ritterhouse has asked GPGS Library Liaison John Wylie to attend the city’s training session on how to use the fancy new copier-scanner-microfilm printer recently purchased by the library. Then, he will then help show library patrons and GPGS members how to use it.

But that’s not all. Kathy has several tasks we can do to help library staff, our members and visiting genealogists. Various Grand Prairie

organizations have donated scrapbooks of their activities but these scrapbooks aren’t indexed. Wouldn’t it be great if some of us could donate, say, one afternoon a month to index the names on each page of a scrapbook so the library staff could quickly access the right one when Cinderella’s great-great-grandson drives into town to see what her ugly step-sisters looked like? Or maybe someone would spend an hour or two moving materials from dog-eared manila folders into nice, clean folders with freshly typed labels.

Editor Richard Waller will soon start publishing in *Roots ‘n Branches* some of the profiles of Grand Prairie’s citizens we wrote for the city’s centennial. One of those profiles told of a generous gift by an unsung hero and asked, “Where else but Grand Prairie?”

Okay, folks, *we* are today’s Grand Prairie. Go, GPGS, Go!

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 August meeting is as follows:

Balance 7-01-09	\$1,199.59
Deposits	82.00
Expenses	<u>50.00</u>
Balance 8-01-09	\$1,231.59

John Cockrum
Treasurer

Member Profile

Patricia (Trish) Fowler Nunn

I was born and raised in Brownwood, Brown Co, Texas, to Victor and Patricia Ferguson Fowler. I was welcomed into the family by my brother John. My dad was in law enforcement for approximately 45 years, working for the Brown County Sheriff's Department and then for the Brownwood Police Department, where he rose in rank from a patrolman on the "beat" to the publicly elected Chief of Police. He retired at that rank in 1989. Mom was the typical stay at home mom of the 50's and 60's.

At birth I was found to have a heart defect. But at that time heart surgery was a very risky and not available in a small town or many cities. But as luck would have it the physician that delivered me was well acquainted with the progress in surgical procedures. In 1958, I was referred to a children's cardiac physician in Houston that was a resident at Texas Children's Hospital. I had experimental surgery and a "wait and see" attitude of what the future would hold. By 1960, great strides were made and I was accepted as a patient of Dr. Michael DeBaKey and Dr. Denton Cooley. After lengthy discussions between my parents and the doctors it was decided I would have a very risky open heart surgery on 6 June 1960. Eight patients were selected to under radical surgery. So surgery was preformed and (obviously) I made it through the surgery and recovered quite nicely. Only one other from the group survived. We two have made it to adult hood and have led good healthy lives and paved the way for other open heart patients that has come since.

Time rolled by and finally I married and moved away. Ron Nunn and I dated for several years and he joined the US Navy and upon his commissioning we married and started "our" naval career than spanned over 20 years. His career was flying Navy jets and living on aircraft carriers. My career was overseeing two sons and all the various jobs that concerned the "Navy Wife" when the husband is deployed. There is a saying that "Navy Wife, toughest job in the Navy", that is true but we had a wonderful time and lived in wonderful places and still keep up with Navy friends. I have been fortunate that Ron wanted me to meet the ship in various ports and I was lucky enough to be able to do so. Hong Kong was a favorite and Italy was great fun. There are many highlights of the Navy life that is it hard to pick just one, so I won't. But you can ask me and I'll give you the high points. But finally that career came to an end and there was retirement. Well I wasn't about to let Ron just retire so there came the move from south Texas to the Dallas area. After a couple of false starts he decided to teach.

After a couple of jobs for me, I ended up as assistant to the Vice President of Operations for Southwest Sports Group who owns the Texas Rangers and the Dallas Stars. I worked at the Ballpark in Arlington and loved the job. It was a difficult decision to quit but by that time my mother was suffering from Alzheimer's and my dad needed help. Only after quitting the job my mom passed away 7 months later. I was so glad to be able to spend her last months together.

During those last months is when my genealogy finally moved to the front of all my hobbies. Ron and I have always traced the families but during that time I was able to really sit and ask questions and probe people's minds. Something I should have done 45 years

ago. Now that my dad is gone, it is as we all know harder to find answers.

Now I spend my “free” time with Ron (when he is not at school), our sons and four grandchildren and my brother. Genealogy is where most of my time is spent and Ron and I share our desire to find our “dead people”. For us there will always be some brickwall, but I’ll leave that to the next generation. They will need something to look for and find.

Member Profile

Barbara Brixey Wylie

I had a head start on most genealogists. As the first child, first grandchild of both sets of grandparents, and first great-grandchild of two sets of great-grandparents, I was passed from lap to lap while three generations told family stories. When I was a bit older, the antique dresser in my maternal grandmother’s kitchen was my special hiding place. It stood in an out-of-the-way corner and had a cubbyhole just my size. If I sat quietly, the adults forgot that I was near enough to hear other family stories—some they probably didn’t intend to tell a child.

The children of my Brixey great-great grandfather and all their descendants gathered each year on the first Sunday in September. Back then, my favorite part of the reunion was the huge covered dish dinner. In hindsight, I treasure that early exposure to my collateral relatives and the sharing of more family stories.

The Farrs, my paternal grandmother’s family, didn’t have a set date for their get-togethers back then but every summer three

generations would gather at least once for homemade ice cream. We’d line up for a photographic version of family group sheets: First, all of Lucy’s children together. Next, each of those children with his or her own family. Then, all of Roy’s children together, followed by each of them with their own families.

Most of Mother’s relatives lived in the adjoining county but we saw many of them the first Sunday in June when the church she grew up in had its homecoming. While we were there, we would walk the church cemetery with Mother pointing out the graves of McAtee and Tracy grandparents, aunts, uncles, and the cousin who was killed in World War II.

Still, with all this exposure to my family’s history, I didn’t begin serious research until I was prodded by two of our sons. The eldest, then getting his master’s at UTA, remarked that his paternal grandfather must have been a black sheep who was kicked out of the family because his dad (by then my ex-husband) knew his half-sisters but no other Collier relatives. I knew my two children’s grandfather was an only child who died before his own children were grown but I didn’t want my children to have that nagging doubt.

By coincidence, Joe, our youngest son (a product of John’s previous marriage) had just turned sixteen and was quite good at manufacturing reasons to drive my car every day. The next morning, I declared that I needed my car because I was going to the San Antonio library to research Tad and Kelly’s ancestry. I found them in Parker County (Weatherford) and Palo Pinto County (Mineral Wells). But the census asked so many interesting questions that I reached for the roll of Webster County, Missouri, microfilm to see what the census revealed about my ancestors.

Then it hit me! How could I go home bubbling with enthusiasm about what I'd learned about my ex-husband's family without learning something about my present husband's family as well? Supper was late that night but John learned that his Ferris great-great-grandfather was a Union chaplain in the Civil War. He sent for Rev. Ferris' military pension record. When that file arrived, John was hooked on genealogy too.

Genealogy was our hobby until John retired from the Air Force. Then it became our profession. We have researched for clients, written articles for genealogical magazines, and spoken before genealogical and historical groups across the nation. I am completing a two-year term on the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) Board of Directors, am Secretary of the Lone Star Chapter of APG, serve on the Texas State Genealogical Society's Speakers Bureau and am the current president of the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society.

Kelly sometimes researches with us. The middle name of Tad's son is my father's middle name as well. Tiara threatened to name her children Victoria (for Victorian furniture) and Gene (for genealogy). Instead, she named them after grandmothers and great-grandmothers. JJ directed our attention to interesting cows and rock formations on the other side of the road if he saw a cemetery sign before we did. But, all five of our children and some of our grandchildren don't hesitate when someone asks, "Just who do you think you are?" They know – for generations back.

Name That Person

Can you name this Grand Prairie Genealogical Society member?



Last Month's photo:
Patricia (Trish) Fowler Nunn

Membership Renewal

September is Membership Renewal Month. Attached to this newsletter is your membership form, please take time to fill it out and return it with your dues payment. You may bring it with you to our next monthly meeting, Thursday September 3rd or mail it to the society at:

*Grand Prairie Genealogical Society
Attention: Membership
PO Box 532026
Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-2026*

Make a copy and invite a friend to join us.

In The Coming Months

October 1, 2009 Kelvin Meyers

Methodology to find your relatives

Kelvin Meyers is a professional genealogist for the last eighteen years, and an avid researcher-historian for the last twenty-eight years, Kelvin Meyers brings a great knowledge of social sciences, history, genealogy and some PI techniques to his work. The Dallas Public Library employed him for ten years in the Genealogy Department. Now, he is engaged in missing heir searches with the firm of Blake and Blake. A native of Crosby County, Kelvin has published two books on his home county; deed abstracts and a compilation of records, including, church, marriage, and census. For a spring of 2007 release, his third book will feature abstracts of the probate minutes. He is also abstracting the births, deaths, and marriages from the Semi-Weekly Farm News.

November 5, 2009 Judy Knight

Seeking a Better Life: Immigration

America is seen as the "Land of Opportunity." It was no different for our ancestors who began arriving in the New World in the 1600s. Learn why your ancestors came to this country, what their journey was like, and what records can help you track them once they arrived. We'll examine ports of arrival and departure as well as online records and other materials.

December 3, 2009 Holiday Dinner

Annual covered dish dinner and show and tell.

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

Workshops/Conferences

**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

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

Dear Uncle Leon

Dear Uncle Leon,
My Foster ancestor migrated from Vermont to western New York near Buffalo in 1811 and purchased land from a Dutch Company, the Holland Land Company. The latter had obtained the rights to the land from the State of Massachusetts? How can this be true?
~Wondering

Dear Wondering,

By virtue of its charter of 1629, Massachusetts originally claimed territorial rights to all land to its west. Later, after the Revolutionary War, it still claimed the land between the Mohawk River settlements of New York and the lands even further west that Massachusetts had ceded to the Federal Government in 1785, which became part of the Northwest Territory. Thereafter, since this land was in the state of New York, an agreement was made to give political jurisdiction to New York and land ownership rights to Massachusetts, resulting in their prompt sale to speculative interests for whatever they would bring. Dutch investors bought cheap and then patiently and sympathetically dealt with cash-poor settlers who wanted to move west.

Source: New England Ancestors, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Summer, 2009, page 23. Also Atlas of American History, James T. Adams, Scribners, New York, 1943.



“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

It's All In How You Look At It

It just all depends on how you look at some things...

Judy Wallman, a professional genealogy researcher in southern California, was doing some personal work on her own family tree. She discovered that Congressman Harry Reid's great great uncle, Remus Reid, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. Both Judy and Harry Reid share this common ancestor.

The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows in Montana territory. On the back of the picture Judy obtained during her research is this inscription: 'Remus Reid, horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton Agency detectives, convicted and was hanged in 1889.'

So Judy recently e-mailed Congressman Harry Reid for information about their great-great uncle.

Believe it or not, Harry Reid's staff sent back the following biographical sketch for her genealogy research: "Remus Reid was a famous cowboy living in Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."

NOW THAT's how it's done, Folks!

That's real POLITICAL SPIN.

Executive Board Members

EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

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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 City Council met in regular session Tuesday night. No business was transacted farther than the passage of an ordinance levying a tax of twenty-five cents on each hundred dollar valuation of property within the corporate limits of Grand Prairie on January 1, 1910, for general municipal purposes.

ADVERTISEMENT: Pure Home Rendered Lard and Tallow. We pay the highest market prices for Hogs and Cattle.

THE STAR MARKET

GARVIN & WITHERSPOON, Props.

THE FIRST STATE BANK, Grand Prairie, Texas: \$713,180,798.35. That's some money. But that was the Savings Deposits of the U. S. in 1909—an average of \$420.45 for each depositor. Your non-interest bearing deposits are guaranteed by the State of Texas. Besides, we are good ourselves--have \$30,000 as our Capital Stock.

ADVERTISEMENT: **BLACKSMITHING.** My 40 years experience prepares me for the very best work in General Blacksmith, Farm and Machine Work. A trial will convince that I am what I say. **JOHN GREENWOOD**

Grand Prairie Texan February 18, 1910

POLL TAX PAYMENTS

Grand Prairie takes third place with 282 polls and some exemptions. The city leads country.

The exact number of votes accredited to the precinct of Dallas county is indicated in a table prepared by Deputy County Tax Collector **R. L. ELLIS**. There are 17,872 qualified voters in the county. The table

indicates an increase of 1,322 over the voting strength of last year, that 10,272 poll tax receipts and 1,915 exemption certificates were issued in the city, and that 5,535 poll tax receipts and 150 exemptions were issued in the county.

Some local precincts are:

Precinct	Polls
58 Florence Hill	32
72 Grand Prairie	282
64 DeSota	132
65 Duncanville	81
66 Cedar Hill	195
80 Cement	99

CONTRACT LET - WORK BEGUN

The Dalworth Realty and Improvement Company last Saturday closed a contract with J. W. MAXEY COMPANY for complete topographical surveys, plans and designs for the development of a villa park subdivision of the Dalworth property, consisting of about 1,200 acres of land on the interurban road about midway between Dallas and Fort Worth and adjoins Grand Prairie on the west.

GEO. D. ALLEN, of St. Louis, F. P. HOLLAND of Dallas and J. W. MAXEY arranged details of the contract, under the terms of which there will be prepared plans and specifications for all macadam drives and roadways, bridges, cement sidewalks and curbs, a complete water system, electric light plant and an ice plant, a sewerage system and a system of sewage disposal, together with a systematic plan of tree planting. Plans contemplate, also distributing mains for natural gas; also electric light and telephone wires will be mounted upon ornamental poles set in concrete.

It is announced that the amount of improvements contemplated will cost between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

BOARDING

The best board and rooms to be had are always found at the new hotel just completed, near the Methodist Church. Most Reasonable Rates. See me now and get the best room in the house. Mrs. R. H. NANCE, Prop'ss.

THE EARTH

Do not try to own it all, but in justice to yourself and family, you ought to own some of the earth as a home; and then there is no investment on the earth equal to earth itself. I have served sixty-six people, either in selling for or to them, property in the rapidly growing town of Grand Prairie, and I think they will all say I treated them right, and that they all could sell at a fine profit, some for two or three times more than they paid.

S. A. FISHBURN Real Estate, 298 Commerce Street, Dallas and Grand Prairie.

Our telephone number is 17 - so let us know the news by phone. TEXAN

CONE JOHNSON SPEAKS

Candidate for Governor gives view on issues of campaign. In accordance with the announcement made in last week's Texan and the daily press Monday, Hon. CONE JOHNSON, candidate for the Democratic nominations for Governor of Texas, arrived in Grand Prairie Monday afternoon and was shown the town and introduced to the citizens by R. L. HIGHT, president of the CONE JOHNSON club, before time set for the speech. H. J. LUCAS, secretary of the club, had Mr. JOHNSON as his guest for dinner.

The committee having in charge the matter of securing a hall for the gathering experienced considerable difficulty, because there was nothing suitable to be had. It was first announced that the speaking would be in the BURGHER Building, but later the WOODMAN Hall was arranged for, but after the crowd had assembled and because of the unsafe condition of the building, the crowd withdrew and gathered in front of the interurban station, where the address was made.

Mayor LIVELY was selected to preside over the meeting and introduced the speaker.

While the crowd was gathering, it became known that there was another candidate who desired to make himself known to our people, whereupon BEN CULLOM, who aspires to the office of County Clerk, was introduced, and in a few chosen words, he told the citizens why he wanted the office and how much he would appreciate being elected.

Mr. LIVELY then introduced Mr. JOHNSON saying: "I esteem this a great pleasure of introducing the Honorable CONE JOHNSON of Tyler, candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor of Texas, who wishes to make his announcement and talk upon some of the issues confronting the people of Texas today. Give him close attention and see if we cannot adopt the principles which he advocates."

Mr. JOHNSON began his speech by making reference to the penitentiary system, the conditions of which he said were appalling, and stated he favored many reforms in the system, calling attention to his printed platform for the changes he desired effected.

Extractions from the February 18, 1910 issue of the "Grand Prairie Texan" will continue in the October 2009 issue of Roots 'n Branches.