

# THE BULLETIN

of the East Texas Genealogical Society

representing the counties of Anderson, Gregg, Henderson, Panola, Rusk, and Smith

Sam Kidd, Jr., President  
February 2008

Janice Cox Brown, Editor  
Vol. 32 No. 2

## East Texas Genealogical Society

**Saturday, February 9, 2008, 2:00 p.m.**  
**Tyler Public Library - Taylor Auditorium**

**Program: "Researching African-American  
Ancestry Prior to the Civil War"**

**Speaker: Karen J. Matheson**

The East Texas Genealogical Society will commemorate Black History Month at our February meeting. Karen J. Matheson will present our program, titled "Researching African-American Ancestry Prior to the Civil War."

Ms. Matheson is a seasoned genealogist and family history researcher, and has been active in the field for more than sixteen years. She was born and reared in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she was employed as a professional genealogist by Lineages, Inc. before her move to Texas in 2000. She is well-known in the Austin-Williamson County area as a competent speaker. She is involved in the community there, helping others with their genealogy in her role as director of the Round Rock Family History Center.

The program will open with basic research techniques and progress through various records and research aids, terminology, history of African-Americans in the U.S., post-civil war data and history, military history, newspapers, biographies, and the many other sources available. Ms. Matheson's program will stress researching African American families, but it will bring new ideas and sources to all genealogists and historians.

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### **Computer Interest Group Frances Grochowski, Director**

Scott Fitzgerald and Larry Oliver, seasoned researchers and Web Masters of various East Texas web pages, will field all questions posed by the audience...so start making a list and let's keep them busy supplying us with everything we've been wanting to know, but couldn't think who to ask.

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All ETGS meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, visit the Web site at [www.rootsworld.com/~txetgs](http://www.rootsworld.com/~txetgs) or contact June Everheart, Program Chairman at [Everheart@suddenlink.net](mailto:Everheart@suddenlink.net) or 903-877-4501.

**Invite a friend and come learn with us!**

## Redefining Their Roots

No matter who you are, researching your family roots is no easy task. But what if there was no written record of your ancestors? That's the challenge facing many African Americans tracing their family histories. Because enslaved Africans were not given opportunities to read, write, marry, vote or own land, the process of discovering their roots has been nearly impossible without the capabilities of DNA analysis.

In an effort to learn more about African-American Ancestry, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., executive director and host of the PBS broadcasts "*African American Lives I*" (2006) and "*Oprah's Roots: An African American Lives Special*" (2007), will return to PBS in February with "*African American Lives 2*."

In the new broadcast, Gates leads a group of renowned men and women—including Maya Angelou and actor Don Cheadle—on a path to reclaim their family history. Gates carefully chose an ordinary citizen from a pool of 2000 applicants to participate in the discovery process, proving that the desire to know our past is universal. Using DNA analysis, genealogical research and oral family histories, Gates and company will trace the ancestry of 10 African-American families through American history and all the way back to Africa.

To learn more about the series, visit:

**[www.pbs.org/wnet/aalives](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aalives)**

or tune in to PBS in February for the premiere of the new broadcast.

~.~from the DAR newsletter, "*American Spirit*," Jan-Feb 2008.

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**Have you mailed in your ETGS  
renewal dues? It's that time again.**

## Get Acquainted Luncheon

Every 4th Thursday

Starting at 11:30 a.m.—February 28, 2008  
at the Heartland Ham Co., Old English Village,  
3400 South Broadway, Tyler, Texas

Everyone is invited to join us for a leisurely get together to eat and “talk shop” a bit. There’s sandwiches, soups, special lunches, and excellent desserts! We usually finish at 1:30 p.m. (time depends on your schedule).

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## Welcome New Members!

Pat Galloway, Chairman

Olin E. Hartley, Tyler

James E. Jay, Tyler

M.L. Cornett, Murchison, TX

Philip R. Sulser, Bullard, TX

Marjorie L. Sherman, Palestine, TX

David Boyd, Tyler

Jan Dugie, Tyler

David Boyd, Tyler

Russell Isabell, Tyler

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## February Hospitality Committee

Sherry Kidd, Chairman

June Laswell, Wanda Barber, and Dolores Parker Bain

## Bulletin Board

### February 2008

- 5 7:00pm—Gregg County Genealogical Society
- 7:00pm—Smith County Historical Society
- 9 2:00pm—**East Texas Genealogical Society**
- 11 7:00pm—Cherokee Co. Genealogical Society
- 16 1:00pm—Rains Co. Genealogical Society
- 18 President’s Day
- 19 7:00pm—DGS African American Interest Group
- 21 7:00pm—Hopkins Co. Genealogical Society
- 7:00pm—Capt James P. Douglas SCV
- 23 2:00pm—Van Zandt Co. Genealogical Society
- 25 7:00pm—Dallas Genealogical Society
- 28 11:30am—**Get Acquainted Luncheon@Heartland Ham**
- 6:00pm—Athens Genealogy Organization

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## Mark Your Calendars Now!

(for Vacation Planning Time)

**April 12th—Annual Spring Family History Fair, LDS Church, Tyler, TX—Meet Your Friends There!**

**May 14-17—NGS Conference in the States and Family History Fair—Kansas City, MO**

**Sept. 13th—ETGS Fall Seminar...**All day with *Desmond Walls Allen*, Speaker—Tyler

For info, contact: Scott Fitzgerald at 903-539-5572 or E-Mail [scottfitzgerald@tyler.net](mailto:scottfitzgerald@tyler.net)

**Oct. 24&25—TSGS 48th Conference** at Abilene, Texas—hosted locally by the West Texas Genealogical Society with Dr. Thomas W. Jones. Theme is “Following the Evidence Trail.”

## We Need Your Support... Please Renew Your Dues Now!

~ Pat Galloway, Membership Chairman

Thanks to all members who have sent in their renewals for 2008! To those who have not renewed, you do not want to miss our award-winning newsletter and *East Texas Family Records* in 2008. Just send \$20 to:

ETGS

P. O. Box 6967

Tyler, TX 75711-6967

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*Tell us if your address has changed.*

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## Oklahoma Territorial Census, 1890 and 1907

If you’ve got Sooner blood, this will probably be the best shot you’ll have at finding your ancestors here. A year after the Land Rush of 1889, Oklahoma’s first state census was conducted—the only official, documented census of the area at the time. Because the national 1890 U. S. Federal Census was lost to a fire in 1921, this may be the only reliable information on early Oklahoma’s history. In it, you’ll find race, gender, age, and family relationship information.

~ from Ancestry.com—Records Update.

Or if you want to find more information about Oklahoma—just use your browser - type: “Oklahoma Territorial Census, 1890 and 1907” and you’ll find a world of other Oklahoma census and informational topics about the Sooner State.

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## Federal Mortality Schedules

Anytime you are searching the census records, remember to take a look at the Federal Mortality Schedules, taken every ten years as part of the census enumerations, most often starting in 1850. Details were listed for persons who died 12 months prior to taking the census itself—usually starting about June 1. In addition to giving genealogical information about families, these schedules can be helpful in tracing genetic diseases and symptoms. If your family member is mentioned in a mortality schedule, just look where it can lead you. You will have the details needed to research obituaries, mortuary records, cemetery records, and probate records for more information.

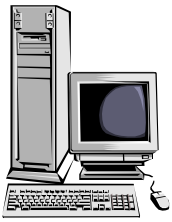
Most mortality schedules give the name, age, sex, color, occupation, birthplace month and year of death, cause of death, number of days ill, the attending physician and other details. In 1870, birthplace of parents were added, and in 1880, the length of time of residence was added and the place where the disease was contracted. So don't forget to scan the mortality schedules in your future searches.

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## Cyndi’s List—African American

For everything you need to know to research African-American genealogy and history, go to:

<http://www.cyndislist.com/african.htm>



## Web Pages & E-mail Addresses with Recent Additions to County Archives

### Anderson County:

TXGenWeb Project - [www.rootsweb.com/~txanders/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txanders/)  
 Manager: Scott Fitzgerald - [scottfitzgerald@tyler.net](mailto:scottfitzgerald@tyler.net)  
 TXGenWeb Archives Project -  
[www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/tx/anderson/andertoc.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/tx/anderson/andertoc.htm)  
 Manager: Scott Fitzgerald - [scottfitzgerald@tyler.net](mailto:scottfitzgerald@tyler.net)  
 Recent Additions: Index of Obituaries from Palestine Herald Press 1982-1983; The Muse Cemetery History by Mrs. Harman Watts; Old Families Lend Stability to Area; Edward Day Franks Obituary; History of Anderson County Newspapers.

### Gregg County:

TXGenWeb Project - <http://txgenes.com/TxGregg/>  
 Manager: Elaine Martin & Etta Withers - [tdsfw@aol.com](mailto:tdsfw@aol.com)  
 TXGenWeb Archives Project -  
[www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/tx/gregg/gregtoc.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/tx/gregg/gregtoc.htm)  
 Manager: Lisa Thomas— [lthomas63@yahoo.com](mailto:lthomas63@yahoo.com)  
 Recent additions: Index of the 1890 Gregg County Tax Roll

### Henderson County:

TXGenWeb Project - [www.rootsweb.com/~txhender/txhender.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txhender/txhender.htm)  
 Manager: Bunny Freeman - [Fouirls1223@aol.com](mailto:Fouirls1223@aol.com)  
 TXGenWeb Archives Project -  
[www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/tx/henderson/hendertoc.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/tx/henderson/hendertoc.htm)  
 Manager: Bunny Freeman - [Fouirls1223@aol.com](mailto:Fouirls1223@aol.com)  
 Recent Additions: Person Surname Added; Update to Cottonwood Post Oak, and Mankin Cemeteries; John Meredith and Lucinda Sumrall Reynolds; Norwood Surname Added

### Panola County:

TXGenWeb Project - [www.rootsweb.com/~txpanola/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txpanola/)  
 Manager: Mary Lee Knight - [panolahistory@yahoo.com](mailto:panolahistory@yahoo.com)  
 TXGenWeb Archives Project -  
[www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/tx/panola/panoltoc.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/tx/panola/panoltoc.htm)  
 Manager: Lisa Thomas - [lthomas63@yahoo.com](mailto:lthomas63@yahoo.com)  
 No Recent Additions.

### Rusk County:

TXGenWeb Project - [www.rootsweb.com/~txrusk/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txrusk/)  
 Manager: Gina Hefferman - [dala@mindspring.com](mailto:dala@mindspring.com)  
 TXGenWeb Archives Project -  
[www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/tx/rusk/rusktoct.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/tx/rusk/rusktoct.htm)  
 Manager: Gina Hefferman - [dala@mindspring.com](mailto:dala@mindspring.com)  
 Index to 1890 Records of Rusk Co., TX

### Smith County:

TXGenWeb Project - [www.rootsweb.com/~txsmith/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txsmith/)  
 Manager: Larry Oliver - [oliverl@suddenlink.net](mailto:oliverl@suddenlink.net)  
 TXGenWeb. Archives Project—  
[www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/tx/smith/smiltoc.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/tx/smith/smiltoc.htm)  
 Manager: Larry Oliver - [oliverl@suddenlink.net](mailto:oliverl@suddenlink.net)  
 New addition: Oliver's Chapel (African-American) tombstones with photos by Jim and Jeanie Sellers. Pugh-Goss Cemetery (old cemetery— first time survey); Added Pictures of the Pugh-Goss Cemetery by Sam and Sherry Kidd.



## New First Families of East Texas Certificates Issued

Four new First Families of East Texas, Rusk County certificates were issued to David P. Brown of Henderson, Texas. He is a direct descendant of Peter Tipps, Leander Ervin Tipps, Leander Ervin Tipps, Jr. and wife, Mary Caroline Windle Tipps—all living in Rusk County before December 31, 1850. Peter Tipps was born in 1784 in Burke County, NC and died about 1864 in Rusk County, TX. He was married to Sarah Silvertooth before 1812 in Kentucky. Their son Leander Ervin Tipps was born in 1819 in Tennessee and died August 1855 in Rusk Co., TX. Leander married Amala Sala Crawford, November 22, 1843 in Nacogdoches County, TX. Their son Leander Ervin Tipps, Jr., born October 15, 1848, Rusk County, died January 21, 1924 in Henderson, Rusk County, TX. He married Mary Caroline Windle, February 4, 1869 in Rusk County. She was born November 26, 1850 in Rusk County; died April 21, 1923 in Henderson, Rusk County. Both are buried in the Davis Cemetery, Rusk County, TX.

Information about our First Families of East Texas Certificate Program can be found at our web-site at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txetgs/FirstFamilies/firstfam.html> Or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to P.O. Box 6967, Tyler, TX 75711-6967. Be sure to tell us which of our six county applications you need.

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## THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON...

### **THE NGS CONFERENCE IN THE STATES AND FAMILY HISTORY FAIR**



**May 14—17, 2008  
Kansas City, Missouri**

The program will include more than 150 lectures and workshops and more than 100 exhibitors. No matter what your skill level in family history research—beginner, intermediate or professional—NGS will have something on the conference program for you!  
<http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/2008>



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## Smith County TXGenWeb Project

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txsmith>

## Smith County TXGenWeb Archives Project

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/tx/smith/smittoc.htm>

## Anderson County TXGenWeb Project

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txanders/>

## Anderson County TXGenWeb Archives Project

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/tx/anderson/andertoc.htm>

“Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am  
the dream and the hope of the slave. I rise, I rise, I  
rise.” ~ Maya Angelou “Still I rise,” and Still I  
Rise (1978)

## ETGS TxGenWeb Page

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txetgs/>

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