

THE BULLETIN

of the East Texas Genealogical Society

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

June Everheart, President
December 2011



Janice Cox Brown, Editor
Vol. 35 No 12

You Are Cordially Invited to a Party!



ETGS Christmas Luncheon
Saturday, December 10, 2011
11:00 a.m.



Tyler Public Library

'Tis the Season once again to celebrate friends—old and new—who share our love of genealogy and the adventure of tracing our ancestors' footsteps. Our annual party is always a joyous and festive occasion and we hope you'll join us for good food and fellowship at our Christmas Buffet Luncheon. Bring your favorite salad, vegetable or dessert. Turkey and brisket will be furnished by Dolores Bain, Janice Brown, and the Everhearts. Remember, the date is December 10th at the Tyler library at 11:00, serving at 11:30. Please join us as we install and welcome the newly elected 2012 officers and directors. Exciting things are ahead as we all work together in the coming New Year! We're leaving our footprints, too, and we know you will want to plant yours alongside ours.

New Officers & Directors to be Installed

President June Everheart
1st Vice President Open
2nd Vice President Pat Galloway
Recording Secretary John Evans
Corresponding Secretary Scott Fitzgerald
Treasurer Caryn Giesler
Editor, The Bulletin Janice Cox Brown
Editor, East Texas Family Records. Scott Fitzgerald
Director, Computer Interest Group. Open
Director of Marketing and Sales Open
Director for 2014 Joyce Boyd
Director for 2014. John Merrit

Thanks also go out to all the county representatives who are so helpful with furnishing material for the quarterly and the many things they do Welcome to all and thank you for serving. See you at the party!

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Executive Board Meeting & Luncheon **Old and New Officers Should Attend**

December 3—10:30 a.m.—Executive Board Room
Smith County Historical Society Building
Adjourn to "Traditions" for Dutch Treat Lunch at 12:00 p.m.

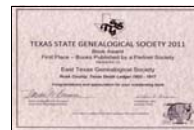
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Treat yourself to some fun and come to the Christmas party!



Congratulations to John R. Dulin & ETGS

John was awarded 1st Place by the Texas State Genealogical Society at their annual conference in Houston recently in the category of Books Published by a Partner Society. For more information on his winning book, titled, "**Rusk County, Texas Death Ledger 1903-1917**," go to: <http://www.etgs.org/publications/ruskcountydeathledgerflyer.pdf>



Janice Brown, newsletter editor of "The Bulletin," also received a 2nd Place in the Newsletter Category. Both awards were accompanied by nice checks for ETGS.

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Timing is Everything...

Can you believe it? Time for annual dues and they are still only \$20 per year (or, \$1.67 per month)! Try counting the ways you receive help from us, think about it, and you'll know we're worth it. We work hard for you to aid in your genealogical education. We count on your dues to continue with all our programs, and we look forward to hearing from you. Please send your dues today to: ETGS, P. O. Box 6967, Tyler, TX 75711—Attn: Pat Galloway, Membership Chairman.

If you would like to make an extra gift for our book budget, or for our Confederate Pension File project, that would be welcome too. If you are thinking about Christmas ideas, consider giving an ETGS membership to one of your favorite relatives or friends. It's nice to have someone to share ideas with.

Get Acquainted Luncheon

Every 4th Thursday

No luncheon in December due to the holidays, but mark your calendar for the 4th Thursday of each month during 2012, except for November and December.

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Renewal and New Members

Pat Galloway, Chairman

If you send in your dues early, you won't have to think about it in the New Year. And we can plan our budget for 2012. Thank you so much.

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Our Christmas Party Is A Covered Dish Event

Jeanne Sellers, Chairman

Everyone is welcome to bring a salad, vegetable or dessert. Jeanne Sellers and her crew will provide table cloths, drinks and utensils. Turkey will be provided by Dolores Bain and Janice Brown, (and anyone else who wants to bring dressing to go with it). The Everhearts will provide the brisket. Come celebrate and party with us. We always have a *fine* time! Treat yourself to fun.

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Bulletin Board

December 2011

- 3 10:30 am Dallas Genealogical Society
- 6 7:00 pm Gregg Co. Genealogical Society
- 7:00 pm Smith Co. Historical Society
- 10 11:30 am East Texas Genealogical Society
- 12 7:00 pm Cherokee Co. Genealogical Society
- 15 7:00 pm Hopkins Co. Genealogical Society
- 7:00 pm Capt. James P. Douglas, SCV
- 17 1:00 pm Rains Co. Genealogical Society
- 19 7:00 pm Woods Co. Genealogical Society
- 25 Christmas Day

(Double check these meeting dates in December because not all could be verified as to meeting this month. Ed.)

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Need Gift Ideas, Anyone?

The holiday season is a time when everyone needs hints for special gifts. Here's **Hint #1**: Whisper to your children or a relative: "*How about an ETGS book publication to add to my personal home library collection?*" You can pass it along to them someday. **Hint #2**: Or, how about a book gift to a library in memory of your ancestor in one of the counties where they lived? View our list of Publications at: <http://www.etgs.org> Or, better still, hint to family members that you would like to have your dues prepaid for 2012. Or give Aunt Sally a membership. How's that for hints and ideas? *Season's Greetings!*

News & Announcements

President June Everheart called the meeting to order and officers reports were given. Memberships were reported as 232. Jim Sellers, corresponding secretary reported one query inquiring about their Littlejohn and Robinson families. Caryn Geisler, treasurer reported birthday money collected for the year was \$431.36, all designated for our book fund. Profit for the month was reported at \$142.30.

Mary Beth Ramage reported that the spring quarterly had been mailed. Sales for the month was \$297.00. Sam Kidd offered to start mailing the quarterly. Scott and Mary Beth will talk with several businesses about the possibility of doing the printing/mailing for the Society and will report next month.

The Computer Interest Group was discussed. Suggestion was made that any computer-related program be featured as a main program topic. Several suggestions were made for possible topics. Members should let us know what they need to continue their education in this field.

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Roots 101 is Coming Again!

Yes! By popular demand, **Roots 101 for 2012** will be doing an encore, on January 21 and 28 and February 4 and 11. June Everheart and her team are working on this now, and it will be similar to the class held last year at Tyler Public Library. Details will be forthcoming as we move along into December. If you would like to help with this educational project in some way please let June know.

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Our Sympathy

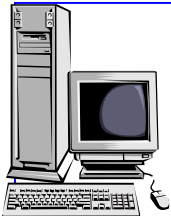
We lost a long-time charter member, Raye Pierce Nelson, (1918-2011) in November, and we express our sympathy to the members of her family. Raye, a former sixth-grade teacher, was a delight and always came to our meetings when she came "home" from Houston, sometimes bringing a platter of her famous cheese wafers. Several years ago she returned to Tyler and her early roots at Lindale. She will be missed by us all.

We were also saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Joe Ericson (1925-2011) of Nacogdoches, Texas who passed away November 11. He was a retired professor from SFASU, and the husband of Carolyn Reeves Ericson, who has given ETGS several programs. Together they served the genealogy community for years with their national business, Ericson Books, which provided an excellent selection of genealogy and history books on Texas and the southeastern states, as well as family histories and much more.

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Oral History at Christmastime

Here's a reminder. Dust off your tape recorder, put in new batteries, and write down questions ahead of time to ask of all the older people at your Christmas gathering. Gather those old stories now for the book you'll write "someday."



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

Anderson County:

TXGenWeb Project: www.etgs.org/txanderson/
 Manager: Scott Fitzgerald - scottfitzgerald@tyler.net
 TXGenWeb Archives Project: usgwarchives.net/tx/anderson/andertoc.htm
 Manager: Scott Fitzgerald - scottfitzgerald@tyler.net
 Recent addition: Unknown photos contributed by Trevor Wardlaw. These photos came from a collection belonging to Ouida Parks (1897-1978), who married C. M. Kennedy on Aug 12, 1911; both are buried at Pilgrim Old Cemetery. Don't pass these photos by!

Gregg County:

TXGenWeb Project: <http://txgenes.com/TxGregg/>
 Managers: Elaine Martin & Etta Withers—McStumped@suddenlink.net
 TXGenWeb Archives Project: usgwarchives.net/tx/gregg/gregtoc.htm
 Manager: Lisa Thomas—lthomas63@yahoo.com
 Need Addresses for Gregg County? See the good source of Look-Ups for these excellent Research Aids, available through the local Family History Center—1700 Blueridge Pkwy, Longview, Read the available inventory of County Records at the courthouse.

Henderson County:

TXGenWeb Project: <http://www.txgenweb7.org/txhenderson>
 Manager: Bunny Freeman - Fouls1223@aol.com and New Assistant, Laura Gregory Calvin.
 TXGenWeb Archives Project: usgwarchives.net/tx/henderson/hendertoc.htm
 Manager: Scott Fitzgerald - scottfitzgerald@tyler.net
 Recent addition: Read the Bill of Sale for a Slave named Mack. Any Black Sheep in your family? There's a list of Fugitives From Justice in 1878, said list prepared at the Adjutant General's Office State of Texas. There's an interesting list from Panola County.

Panola County:

TXGenWeb Project: www.txgenweb4.org/txpanola/
 Manager: Marylee Knight—panolahistory@yahoo.com
 TXGenWeb Archives Project: usgwarchives.net/tx/panola/panolotoc.htm
 Manager: Lisa Thomas—lthomas63@yahoo.com
 Recent addition.

Rusk County:

TXGenWeb Project: www.txrusk.com/
 Manager: Gina Heffernan - ginagaleh@yahoo.com
 TXGenWeb Archives Project: usgwarchives.net/tx/rusk/rusktoctoc.htm
 Manager: Gina Heffernan - dala@mindspring.com
 No recent additions—but look under the Research Aids Section, Left-hand column, 5th line down, look at the 3,590 families listed there, alphabetically, from which you can choose. Then add yours.

Smith County:

TXGenWeb Project: www.etgs.org/txsmith/
 Manager: Frances Grochowski-frankieski@aol.com
 TXGenWeb Archives Project: usgwarchives.net/tx/smith/smittoc.htm
 Manager: Frances Grochowski-frankieski@aol.com
 No recent additions. If you have never tried to get help from the Family History Center at Tyler, you are missing a bet. One new source is the Message about "Books On-Line at Brigham Young University." Learn about all the LDS Microfilm/Microfiche records. Check the "local Catalog to see if the film is already here and may be available without placing an order. All 6 of our counties, too!



Tips from Don Raney's November Program

It can't be said enough—so I'll pass these tips along from Don Raney that he emphasized in his program:

- 1) Start your plans to publish your family history now.
- 2) Don't wait until you have everything perfect, you may not live long enough.
- 3) It is better to publish some errors than to never publish.
- 4) Leave some work for your descendants to complete.
- 5) Point out undocumented research and indicate where additional research is needed.
- 6) Your family history will be the most enduring of your achievements and it will be treasured by your descendants for many years after you are gone.



New First Families of East Texas Certificates Issued

A Smith County Certificate was issued to Syble Cline Glasscock of Mineola, Texas. She is a direct descendant of **William Perryman** who was living in Smith County before December 31, 1850. William Perryman was born about 1811 in Kentucky and died before October 1870, possibly in Arkansas. He was married to **Elizabeth Gilbreath** about 1835, probably in Tennessee.

Two Rusk County Certificates were issued to Timothy W. Buchanan of Belton, Texas. The first certificate was issued as a descendant of **Zilpha Baker Barton** who was living in Rusk County before December 31, 1850. Zilpha Baker Barton was born December 12, 1802 in Pickens or Anderson County, South Carolina and died November 14 1890 in Desdemona, Eastland County, Texas. She was married to **J. Benjamin Barton** in 1819 in Pendleton, Anderson County, South Carolina.

The second certificate was issued as a descendant of **Samuel David Buchanan** who was living in Rusk County before December 31, 1850. Samuel David Buchanan was born December 19, 1816 in Lincoln County, Tennessee and died May 24 1858 in Bellview, Rusk County, Texas. He was married to **Celia Ann Kennon** on January 12, 1839 in Lincoln County, Tennessee.

Information about our First Families of East Texas Certificate program can be found at our web-site at: <http://www.etgs.org/firstfamilies/firstfam.html> or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to PO Box 6967, Tyler, TX 75711-6967. Be sure and tell us which of our six county applications you need.



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Smith County TXGenWeb Project

<http://www.etgs.org/txsmith/>

Smith County TXGenWeb Archives Project

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/tx/smith/smittoc.htm>

Anderson County TXGenWeb Project

<http://www.etgs.org/txanderson/>

Anderson County TXGenWeb Archives Project

<http://usgwarchives.net/tx/anderson/andertoc.htm>

Henderson County TXGenWeb Archives Project

<http://usgwarchives.net/tx/henderson/hendertoc.htm>

ETGS Web Page

<http://www.etgs.org/>

~ Lawrence E. Oliver, Web Master

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2012—Sam Kidd, Jr.- 903-839-8483

2012—June Laswell - 903-839-7318

2013—John Evans - 903-561-7394

2013—Dolores Parker Bain—903-596-9070

Russell Julius Starr, CSA

(1832-1873)

Russell Julius Starr, my great-great grandfather, was born November 12, 1832 in Henry County, Georgia, the son of Joshua Starr, a Methodist minister, and the founder of Starrville, and Martha M. Harris. He moved with his family to Alabama by 1840 and on to Smith County, Texas, about 1852 at the age of 19. He and Pernicia A. Lorance, the daughter of Hiram Lorance, were married on November 22, 1853 in Smith County, Texas, by Isaac R. Vannoy. The Lorance family had moved to present day Smith County in 1844, when it was still a part of Nacogdoches County.

Russell Julius Starr was listed as a farmer on the 1850, 1860, and 1870 Census Records. From the transcription of Smith County Commissioner's Court Minutes as published in the Chronicles of Smith County, he frequently served as an overseer of a section of road construction in the County while the early roads were being built. He also frequently served on the slave patrols in the County in the 1850's. He served as Justice of the Peace for Precinct 4 of Smith County from 1858 to 1860. By 1860 he and his wife and two sons, Delma D. and John M., had moved to the Flora Community, where he farmed 70 improved acres and owned another 630 unimproved acres with a total value of \$6,000.

On May 10, 1862, Russell J. Starr, at the age of 30, enlisted in Company I, 22nd Texas Infantry as a Private in the Confederate Army. He was discharged August 22, 1862 because of chronic hepatitis and hemorrhoids. He enlisted once again on April 6, 1863, this time in Company K, 37th Texas Cavalry, called Terrell's Texas Cavalry (Terrell's regiment referred to themselves as the 34th Texas Cavalry). He is described as 5'8" tall, with fair complexion, blue eyes, and light hair. By July of 1863, his Company was at Camp Groce, Texas, and he was a 1st Lieutenant. In November of 1863, he appears on a Regimental Return as Captain of Company K. Over the next three months the regiment was stationed at several different camps near the Texas coast.

By this time, President Lincoln had authorized a campaign against Shreveport, Louisiana, then the temporary capital of Confederate Louisiana, called the Red River Campaign. Shreveport was a major supply depot and a gateway to Texas. The objectives of this campaign included preventing a Confederate alliance with the French in Mexico, denying southern supplies to Confederate forces, securing vast quantities of Louisiana and Texas cotton for northern mills, and freeing the prisoners at Camp Ford near Tyler.

On March 12, the Trans-Mississippi Department in Louisiana wrote Major General Magruder to send Terrell's Regiment to General Taylor in Alexandria, Louisiana. The orders were changed to move to Natchitoches, Louisiana, and then changed again to move to Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. Further word ordered them to Mansfield, Louisiana by way of Logansport. They reported to General Taylor on April 5, 1864. On April 8, Terrell's Regiment took part in the Battle of Mansfield, helping to rout the Federal troops in what may have been the most humiliating defeat of the entire war. On April 9, Terrell's Regiment participated in the engagement at Pleasant Hill, as the Federal troops retreated. On April 12, Terrell's Regiment took part in the Battle of Blair's Landing on the Red River, where the Federal Fleet of about 30 gunboats and transports were retreating and heading back toward Alexandria now that the Red River expedition had failed. On May 14 as the Federals left Alexandria, Russell Julius Starr suffered a hand wound in the battle but was not sent to the hospital. The Confederate Cavalry continued to harass the Union Army as it retreated until May 20, when they crossed the Atchafalya and the Red River Campaign was over.

Terrell's Cavalry spent the winter of 1864 near Alexandria. General Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865 and between April 21 and May 1, Terrell's Cavalry headed to Texas. On May 14, 1865 the regiment was disbanded at Wild Cat Bluff on the Trinity River. On July 22, 1865, Russell Julius Starr signed his Parole at Marshall, Texas and returned home to Smith County.

Pernicia Lorance Starr died March 21, 1868 and Russell Julius Starr married Melissa E. James in Smith County on June 28, 1868. By 1870 Russell was farming back at Starrville, and died July 12, 1873. He and his two wives are believed to be buried in unmarked graves at the Starrville Cemetery. His children were the first of what has now become six generations to be born in Smith County.

~ Submitted by Ray W. Kent

Since we have used all the stories thus far sent in, I have submitted one more story to fill up the extra page. Please think about sending in your story to honor your ancestor and share it for all time, so that he will be remembered and honored. Ed.

George W. McElhannon, CSA

(1833-1864)

George W. McElhannon, born about 1833 in Jackson County, Georgia, was the first and oldest son of Stewart and Frances (Lay) McElhannon. He married Mary S. Trout, daughter of William Hubert and Mary Martha G. Braziel, February 1, 1854 in Jackson County. In the 1860 Jackson Co. census, the family was listed as: George (W.) McElhannon, 28, farmer; Mary (S. Trout), 25; Frances (Lavada), 5; and John, age 1, all born in Georgia.

George McElhannon was about twenty-nine when, according to a payroll record, he was listed as a private in Company C (Cavalry Battalion), Cobb's Legion, Georgia Volunteers. He enlisted "for the war" at Jackson County on April 25, 1862 to serve with W. G. Delany, who was probably raising a company in the county. According to a later company muster roll, George was enlisted in Confederate service at Athens, Clark County, Georgia on March 4, 1862, along with several friends and relatives. On a May and June 1862 company muster roll, he was listed as a 2nd sergeant in Company B, Georgia Troopers, which subsequently became Company H, Cavalry Battalion), Cobb's Georgia Legion.

He appeared on a Roll of Prisoners of War, paroled and discharged from Fort Wool, August 26, 1862. The Roll was dated Headquarters, 7th Army Corps at Fort Monroe, Virginia on August 26, 1862. The prisoners of War Roll further shows that he was captured at Malvern Hill on August 5, 1862. He was later paroled and exchanged along with eighty-one other prisoners, at Aiken's Landing, Virginia, November 10, 1862. He subsequently returned to duty. He next fought in the battles at Seven Pines, and thereafter died from disease in a camp, General Hospital No. 8, in Raleigh, North Carolina, on August 11, 1864.

The name of G. W. McElhannon, Pvt. Co. H, Georgia Legion, appears on a Register of Officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Confederate States who were killed in battle, or who died of wounds or disease. The date of his death on this register was listed as August 13, 1864, although in all other places the date was put at August 11, 1864, with his widowed wife, listed as the legal representative. Her post office was given as Jefferson, Georgia.

George W. McElhannon's death left his wife, Mary, with two small children, a daughter, Frances Lavada "Fanny", (my great-great grandmother), born February 10, 1855 and a son, John Albert McElhannon, born 1859. At the time of George's death, his daughter was nine and his son about five years old.

George McElhannon was one of four brothers, all the sons of Stewart McElhannon (1810-1899). At age fifty-four, Stewart volunteered to the Confederacy, when it was almost certain that Atlanta would be invaded. He served six months in Company E, 5th Regiment, Georgia Militia volunteers. Wounded in the Battle of Atlanta, he later applied for and was granted a pension for his service. Loss of four sons killed in the war and the father wounded was a big price for one family to pay! Stewart's father, John McElhannon, was a Revolutionary War soldier, Pennsylvania line, and has a historical marker at his grave. Stewart's two brothers, Christopher and John McElhannon, Jr., both served in the War of 1812. You might say this was a patriotic family of men.

Mary later married Joseph D. Johnson, October 21, 1866 in Jackson County. He had been a close and good friend of her husband, who also served in the war. In the Jackson County courthouse there is record that J. D. Johnson applied for letters of guardianship of Fannie L. Stockton and John C. McElhannon, orphans of G. W. McElhannon, deceased. Letters were granted, bond taken, and the Guardian qualified.

It is not known the exact date of Mary's death, but it is believed this couple remained in Jackson County, living at Sandy Creek in the lower part of the county, perhaps for the rest of their lives.

~ Submitted by Janice Brown, Tyler