

THE BULLETIN

of the East Texas Genealogical Society

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

Sam Kidd, Jr., President
July 2009



Janice Cox Brown, Editor
Vol. 33 No. 7

East Texas Genealogical Society

Saturday, July 11, 2009, 2:00 p.m.

Tyler Public Library—Taylor Auditorium

**Program: “Tax Records”, or “Why Did Scarlett
Make A Dress of Her Mother’s Drapes?”**

Speaker: Kelvin L. Meyers

For most genealogists a tax list is merely a substitute for a missing census, but there are many other uses for a tax list. You can determine when an ancestor comes of age, estimate the time of death of an ancestor, or maybe identify a nameless wife. Learn what your ancestor’s social standing was in the community. Maybe you can determine the short stay of a family in a county between decennial censuses, as well as give positive clues to the location of land owned in that county. Also learn where to find these tax lists and how to access them.

Kelvin L. Meyers is a contract forensic genealogist, researcher, author and lecturer. From 1986 to 1996 he was employed in the Genealogy Department, History and Social Science Division, Dallas Public Library; Lloyd Bockstruck, supervisor. From 1996 to present, he has served as a Contract Forensic Genealogist with attorneys, banks, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services, and heir searching companies, locating lost /missing heirs to estates and oil and gas leases.

Mr. Meyers is a past president of the Dallas, Genealogical Society and Texas State Genealogical Society. Currently, he is president of Lone Star Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

He graduated in 1984 from Texas Tech with a B.A. in History, and in 1989 and 1990, attended Samford IGHR where he completed two courses” Course IV in “Advanced Methodology” and Course V in “Advanced Library Research.” He has presented a variety of programs at over twenty genealogical societies, nationwide. Be sure to join us.

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Computer Interest Group

Rick Featherston, Director

There will be no CIG Meeting in July.

ETGS Meetings are free and open to the public. Bring a Friend!

Welcome New Members!

Pat Galloway, Chairman—
membership@etgs.org

Pam Brown, Henderson, TX
Michael & Lola Rutherford, Tyler, TX

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**ETGS—Van Zandt County
Genealogical Society
Will Host All Day Seminar
Saturday, August 8, 2009**

East Texas Genealogical Society and the Van Zandt County Genealogical Society will sponsor jointly an all day Genealogical Seminar at the Hart-Morris Conservation Center at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens.

Desmond Walls Allen, national speaker and author of 200 books about historical and genealogical subjects, will be the speaker. “Preserving Your Family Papers, Photographs and Heirlooms.” Topics will include “Ideas About Organization,” “Identification of Threats”, “Suggestions for Storage”, “Techniques for Preservation” and “Plans for Backups of Papers and Photos.”

Registration for the all day seminar will be \$40 before July 31 and \$45 after July 31, and will include a continental breakfast and lunch catered by Danny’s Barbeque of Athens. For historians and genealogists attending from out of town, special rates have been arranged with the Holiday Inn Express in Athens, near the Center.

Registration forms are at www.etgs.org, or at the Tyler Public Library (3rd Floor) or e-mail June Everheart at 1stvp@etgs.org (903-877-4501, or pick forms up at the Library of Genealogy and Local History at Canton— 903-567-5012.

Get Acquainted Luncheon

Every 4th Thursday

Starting at 11:30 a.m.—July 23, 2009
at the Heartland Ham Co., Old English Village,
3400 South Broadway, Tyler, Texas

Got genealogy questions? We've got answers. Join the "lunch bunch" when they meet for Dutch Treat Lunch" 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - come and go - depending on everyone's schedule. You are invited. Hope to see you there!

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July Hospitality

Sherry Kidd, Chairman

Sharon Brogdon,
Sharon Gillett
and June Everheart

Bulletin Board

July 2009

4 Independence Day

- 7 7:00 pm Gregg County Genealogical Society
- 7:00 pm Smith County Historical Society
- 11 10:00 am Harrison Co. Genealogical Society
- 2:00 pm East Texas Genealogical Society**
- 13 7:00 pm Cherokee Co. Genealogical Society
- 16 7:00 pm Hopkins Co. Genealogical Society
- 7:00 pm Capt. James P. Douglas, SCV
- 18 1:00 pm Rains County Genealogical Society
- 23 11:30 am Get Acquainted Luncheon at Heartland Ham**
- 6:00 pm Athens Genealogy Organization
- 25 2:00 pm Van Zandt Co. Genealogical Society
- 27 7:00 pm DGS Regular Meeting
- 7:30 pm DGS—Genealogy on the Internet

28 World War I Began (1914)

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Mark Your Calendars!

July 23-25, 2009

Dallas Genealogical Society presents
"Land & Court Records & Other Special Topics"
Patricia Law Hatcher & Lloyd Bockstruck

At **Summer Institute** at the J. Erik Johnson Central
Dallas Public Library, 1515 Young., Dallas, TX
Registration Deadline: By July 9th
Voice Mail 1-866-YOU2DGS (866-968-2347)

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August 8, 2009

ETGS & Van Zandt County Genealogical Society
will co-sponsor a seminar with
Desmond Walls Allen as featured speaker.

Planning a Genealogy Getaway Vacation?

Summer vacations can be more fun when combined with a genealogy research trip. To achieve success, consider these tips:

What is Your Goal? This is the first step in the process.

Know Where You're Going. Be sure you head for the right location where the records of your family are kept. Check the boundaries, too. Right town, right county.

Know What's Available. Become familiar with the record resources generally available in that region. Some good resources for this may include:

- ◆ LDS Research Guides and LDS Family History Library for good general outlines of available records for specific locations;
- ◆ City, county, parish, state, or country GenWeb page to learn more about sources for a specific location; ask for recommendations.
- ◆ The Library of Congress Card Catalog to determine what books have been published on the county or area you are planning to visit.

Prepare Checklists. Use your compiled family research to create a list of facts or theories you wish to prove or disprove as well as a "to-do" list of records to be checked.

Do Your Homework. Before you leave home, check out library office hours, holdings, and other details by using the internet and telephone ahead of your trip. Make sure the records you want are available when you are there.

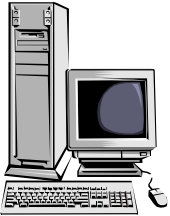
Map a Strategy. Obtain current highway maps, as well as maps contemporary with the life of your ancestors. In particular, look at USGS small-scale, topographic maps that include country road numbers, farm roads, and many churches and private cemeteries, and special landmarks.

Pack for Success. To be sure to take what you will need here's a short checklist to get you started with:

- ◆ Copies of your research goals and to-do lists
- ◆ Copies of pedigree and family group records
- ◆ Plenty of pencils (many libraries don't allow pens)
- ◆ Blank charts and forms, including pedigree and family group sheets, research logs and forms for extracting records (such as blank census forms)
- ◆ A laptop computer if you have one (check with the individual repositories to be certain they're allowed)
- ◆ A magnifying glass to aid in reading old records.
- ◆ Comfortable clothes and shoes. (For better service, stick with business casual over sweats or jeans.)
- ◆ Camera, batteries, and plenty of film (or memory cards if your camera is digital)
- ◆ A tape recorder

Make it a point to check the "vertical files" at each library visited. You may want to add and leave a file of your own.

Adapted from Kimberly Powell, About.com: genealogy.
http://genealogy.about.com/od/research_trips/a/planning.htm



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
No recent additions, but visit all the many resources to be found on this website. You may see something you overlooked before!

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
No recent additions. Make yourself a check list and go by to visit this website for something new that has been added since you last checked it out.

Henderson County:

TXGenWeb Project: <http://www.txgenweb7.org/txhenderson>
Manager: Bunny Freeman - Fourls1223@aol.com and New Assistant, Laura Gregory Calvin.
TXGenWeb Archives Project: usgwarchives.net/tx/henderson/hendertoc.htm
Manager: Scott Fitzgerald - scottfitzgerald@tyler.net
Recent Additions: Juanita Bell Obituary; Amy Pollock Obituary; Sweeten to Come Back as Sheriff : Crime in Athens Does Not Pay

Panola County:

TXGenWeb Project: www.txgenweb4.org/txpanola/
Manager: Mary Lee Knight—panolahistory@yahoo.com
TXGenWeb Archives Project: usgwarchives.net/tx/panola/panolotoc.htm
Manager: Lisa Thomas—lthomas63@yahoo.com
No recent additions: Visit all the many resources on the Panola County website. Great records are to be found there.

Rusk County:

TXGenWeb Project: www.txrusk.com/
Manager: Gina Heffernan - dala@mindspring.com
TXGenWeb Archives Project: usgwarchives.net/tx/rusk/rusktoc.htm
Manager: Gina Heffernan - dala@mindspring.com
No recent additions, but there's many resources on this site.

Smith County:

TXGenWeb Project: www.etgs.org/txsmith/
Manager: Larry Oliver - oliverl@suddenlink.net
TXGenWeb Archives Project: usgwarchives.net/tx/smith/smiltoc.htm
Manager: Larry Oliver - oliverl@suddenlink.net
No recent additions, but there are many resources to aid you in your genealogical research. Check them all out, one by one.

Note: TXGenWeb Managers and their volunteer helpers have put in untold hours to provide researchers with records that may be found only on the above websites for the six counties represented by ETGS. Read and compile your list.



Preservation Tip

When consulting old documents, place them flat on the table or desk where you are working. They should be kept away from the edges of the work surface and also be supported on a blotter or heavy acid-free paper that is larger than the item itself.

Make certain your hands are clean and dry before beginning, and handle any paper object as gently and infrequently as possible. If the object must be consulted frequently, place it in a Mylar sleeve to protect it from further deterioration.

~from Becky Schipper, "Genealogy Gems", Fort Wayne Library, No. 41, July 31, 2007, <genealogygems@genealogycenter.info>

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Wood County Genealogy

For anyone interested, the book "Wood County 1850-1900" published by the Wood County Historical Commission In 1976 is a wonderful resource about people and events during the first 50 years of the existence of Wood County.

Thousands of names are mentioned, frequently in several spellings and formats (middle initials, nicknames, etc.). The single problem with the book was the lack of an index.

The Wood County Genealogical Society has recently solved the problem with the publication of an all-name index to the book. The index is 84 pages, soft-cover, in perfect binding, and is available from:

<http://www.lulu.com/content/paperback-book/all-name-index-of-wood-county-1850-1900/7243384>

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Blog:Wikis

Just about everyone has heard of wikipedia, but do you know what a wiki is, or how to create one? Did you know that Familysearch.org, the vast genealogy site managed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is building one of its own? You can learn everything you ever wanted to know about wikis but were afraid to ask in Carolyn Barkley's new posting at: www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com (from *Genealogical.com*" <tips@genealogical.com> Monday, June 15, 2009 issue.)

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Louisiana Deaths 1850-1875;1894-1954

These are now on line at: pilot.familysearch.org
Indexed records: 664,511. Comments: Note, images will be added at a later date when additional features are available. (submitted by Beverly Odom).

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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>

“I’m a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.”

~ Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

(Certainly applies to Genealogists. :) Ed.)

ETGS TXGenWeb Page

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

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