

THE BULLETIN

of the East Texas Genealogical Society

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

Sam Kidd, Jr., President
December 2009

Janice Cox Brown, Editor
Vol. 33 No. 12

You Are Cordially Invited
To East Texas Genealogical Society's
Annual Christmas Luncheon

On Saturday, December 12, 2009
Starting at 11:30 a.m.
Tyler Public Library—Taylor Auditorium

'Tis the Season once again to celebrate friends—old and new—who share our love of genealogy and the adventure of tracing our ancestor's footsteps. Our Christmas 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. Your favorite salad, vegetable, or dessert will be gladly received. Turkeys will be provided by the Sam and Sherry Kidd and Janice Brown. The Everhearts will provide brisket. Please come and join us when we welcome our newly elected 2010 officers, directors and county representatives as we begin a New Year. Exciting things are ahead as we all work together to set things in motion for a banner year!

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2010 Officer Installation

President	James Sellers
1st Vice President,	June Everheart
2nd Vice President	Pat Galloway
Recording Secretary	Jeanne Sellers
Corresponding Secretary	Donna Partin
Treasurer	Caryn Giesler
Newsletter Editor	Janice Cox Brown
Quarterly Editor	Scott Fitzgerald
Director, Computer Interest Group	Rick Featherston
Director, Marketing and Sales	Mary Beth Ramage
Director 2012	Sam Kidd
Director 2012	June Laswell

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



Report from San Antonio

The Texas State Genealogical Society's Annual Conference in San Antonio on November 6-7 was attended by ETGS Scott Fitzgerald and others from around the East Texas area. Craig R. Scott, CG was the featured speaker, discussing military records. Vendors were popular as always with their wide array of books and merchandise.

The Awards Banquet was a fun affair and some of the Award winners in the various categories were:

Website Awards Partner Society winners were:

1st—East Texas Genealogical Society
2nd—Victoria County Genealogical Society
3rd—Pecan Valley Genealogical Society

Newsletter Winners were:

1st—San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society
2nd—Austin Genealogical Society
3rd—East Texas Genealogical Society

Everyone who attended appreciated the opportunity to hone their skills. Success in family history research comes from education in the genealogical field. Plan now to attend the 2010 state conference.

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Timing is Everything... Dues are Due!

Please send your dues today to: ETGS, P. O. Box 6967, Tyler, TX 75711 - Attention: Pat Galloway, Membership Chmn. Dues are still just \$20.00 per year. We look forward to hearing from you! If you would like to make an extra gift for our book budget, that would be welcome too.

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 next year, except for November and December.

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Renewal and New Members!

Pat Galloway, Chairman—membership@etgs.org

If you send in your dues early, you won't have to think about it in the new year. Thank you!

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Our Christmas Party Is A Covered Dish Event

Everyone is welcome to bring a salad, vegetable or dessert. Sherry Kidd will provide table cloths, drinks and utensils. Turkey will be provided by the Kidds and Janice Brown, and the Everhearts will provide the brisket. Come celebrate with us. We always have a fun time together!

Bulletin Board

December 2009

- 1 7:00 pm Gregg County Genealogical Society
- 7:00 pm Smith County Historical Society
- 12 10:00 pm Harrison Co. Genealogical Society
- 11:30 am East Texas Genealogical Society**
- 14 7:00 pm Cherokee Co. Genealogical Society
- 16 7:00 pm Wood County Genealogical Society
- 17 7:00 pm Hopkins Co. Genealogical Society
- 7:00 pm Capt. James P. Douglas, SCV
- 19 1:00 pm Rains County Genealogical Society

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

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Wanted...your email and mailing address, and telephone number changes. The new membership directory is already underway. Please help Pat Galloway, membership chairman, by sending in your current information with your renewal dues.

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Gift Ideas, Anyone?

If someone asks you for Christmas hints, here are a few ideas! How about ETGS publications to add to your personal home library collection? You can pass them on someday! 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 more than 40 books for sale on the ETGS website - click on Publications at: <http://www.etgs.org>. Or, think about giving an ETGS membership to a friend or loved one so you can share your hobby with them.

News and Announcements

June Everheart, program chairman, and Rick Featherston, CIG director, have been busy trying to schedule programs for the year. June said they like to bring programs that our members want and need. They are working together trying to keep the CIG programs a bit shorter, and they hope to book three main lectures about computer related items --- Family Tree Maker will be their first program. It will use the CIG time as well as the main program time.

Sam and Sherry Kidd are finishing up the application work for a Texas Historical Marker for the 1904 Carnegie Library in Tyler. The library is one of the few Carnegie libraries remaining in Texas and is today the home of the Smith County Historical Society. It was the first building in Tyler to have running water and served as the public library until 1980.

Reminder: History can be found in old newspaper clippings, and if you have any—perhaps hidden among Bible pages (a favorite place to put things to be remembered), in scrapbooks or perhaps a box under the bed, maybe an old cedar chest or even your grandmother's trunk down in the basement, how about sending in photographic copies of some of these items so they won't be buried away forever, and then lost to all time.

ETGS is here to help you - please let us know particular program speakers or types of programs you would like to see more of. Which states do you need more help with?

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ETGS Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, Dec. 5—10:30 a.m.
Tyler Library—Taylor Auditorium
Adjourn to Traditions for Dutch Treat Lunch

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How to Get the Web Pages For Smith County Cemeteries

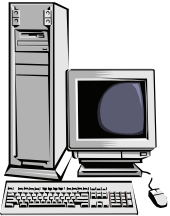
We had a request for this information, and perhaps it will be helpful to many of our readers. Larry Oliver's directions are:

<http://www.etgs.org/txsmith/cemeteries/smccemlist/html>

This is an alphabetical list of the cemeteries. You can access the survey and also the tombstone photos (where available) from this page. You can also access them from:

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

This is the Smith County Archives and it has a search engine near the bottom of the page which can be used to search all of the cemeteries. It can also be used to search the entire archives for Smith County which is chockfull of resource aids, or actually any or all of the Counties in Texas. Good luck in your search throughout the coming New Year!!



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 additions: Unknown Elkhart photos by Trevor Wardlaw; Photos (pdf file) of Wood Bros. Clothiers & Shoers Wagon by Wilkenson; News items from the Palestine Herald Press—Feb 2008 thru Nov 2008.

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
View the Landmarks, Photo Gallery, and then take a look at all the Queries and Archived Queries. You may find family there!

Henderson County:

TXGenWeb Project: <http://www.txgenweb7.org/txhenderson>
Manager: Bunny Freeman - Fouirls1223@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: Obits for Betty Arthurs, Maggie Gregory, Eula Gillaspay, Joseph Brown, Martelia Franks, Eldridge Franks, Joy Klysen, Ovie Ashton and Della Ashton.

Panola County:

TXGenWeb Project: www.txgenweb4.org/txpanola/
Manager: Mary Lee Knight—panolahistory@yahoo.com
TXGenWeb Archives Project: usgwarchives.net/tx/panola/panoltoc.htm
Manager: Lisa Thomas—lthomas63@yahoo.com
Take time to revisit once again the “Whats New?” section for 2006 and 2007 and you’ll find Cemetery Transcriptions & Headstone Photos, Obituaries, Marriages, Churches and Church Photos.

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
Recent additions: Repaired link to Family Group Sheet page; Added partial catalog and some tombstone photos for Holleman Cemetery.

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. Please take time to visit the Smith County Archive Section and see records of Bibles, Biographies, Census, Cemeteries, Churches, Court, Deeds/Land, History, Military, Miscellaneous, Newspapers, Obituaries for 1800s, 1900s 2000s; Vital: Births, Marriages, Deaths; Divorce Records, and Wills and Probate. There’s a world of information on these webpage links.



Census Records

The end of the year is a good time to look back and check out your family group sheets to see how many records are missing. A good place to start may be with the census records. There are other census records besides the Federal Census Schedules. How about looking at the State Census records or the Agriculture Census records? State census records rank equally with Federal census records. Both of these can give you information you may not be found elsewhere. Google: *state census records. genealogy* or you can try googling: *agriculture census records. genealogy*. There’s a wealth of information to be found using these two resources.

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Historical County Webpages

Beverly Odom sent in the webpage for the brand new Anderson County Historical Commission site, which can be found at: www.achc.info Check it out! Or, if you would like to look at the websites for the other five counties ETGS represents, they can be found at:

Historical Commission@co.henderson.tx.us
For Gregg: *anobles@kilgore-edc.com*
Panolahistory@yahoo.com
For Rusk: *msrms@charter.net*
Smithcountyhistorical.com

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Holiday Oral History

The holiday season provides the perfect opportunity to interview family (and even friends) about family history and old stories and events. From Kimberly Powell About.com Genealogy, here are a few tips and remember that the best interview should be a conversation or story-telling session rather than Q&A.

- 1. Stay Engaged.** Maintain eye contact, *really* listen.
- 2. Don't Be Afraid of Silence.** The whole point of the story is to allow your family member to tell the story. Instead of jumping right in at a pause, allow a little time to see if he or she has anything else to add.
- 3. Ask the right Questions.** The best interview comes from questions that ask when, why, how, where and what, instead of just requiring a “yes” or “no” response. Keep questions brief, one at a time.
- 4. Follow up on the Good Stuff.** For any event or account brought up—follow up with additional questions.
- 5. Be yourself.** And try to put your subject at ease.
- 6. Don't Interrupt.** Jot it down if you need to go back because you have thought of a new question.
- 7. Get Personal.** Ask about the thrill of a first love, or being shipped off to war, but ask tactfully.

Don't challenge answers you think are inaccurate; do use “props” such as stories an old photograph can elicit. Ask about stories of special memories, objects, or heirlooms. Try a group approach with relatives and build upon their combined memories from the old days.

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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/>

~ Larry Oliver, Webmaster

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2011—Barbara J. Martin - 903-586-7575

2011—Frances Bishop Grochowski - 903-849-6608

Christmas '09

'Tis the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial fire of charity in the heart."

~~ Washington Irving, American writer, 1783-1859

...and with that thought in mind, comes this extra page – call it a Christmas bonus, if you will – to let you know how much we appreciate you, our members. Your support and promotion of our Society is the reason we have stayed "in business" for the past 33 years! Your continued membership is a good way to network and gain new insights in genealogy that can assist you with your research and your hobby. It is also a good way to meet other like-minded genealogists.

All of the new officers, directors and county representatives will do their best to make 2010 an exciting and eventful year that we can all benefit from!

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First Family Certificates

The East Texas Genealogical Society issues First Family Certificates to all direct descendants of early pioneers, male or female, who resided in Anderson, Henderson, Panola, Rusk, and Smith Counties before December 31, 1850, or in the case of Gregg County before December 31, 1880.

The objective is to encourage the preservation of family history in the six counties represented by our Society.

From time to time, the First Family history of your ancestors will be published in the society's newsletter.

Upon approval of the ancestors' name, documentation and application, a certificate, suitable for framing, will be issued with the names of the ancestor and the applicant.

If you wish to preserve your ancestors' records, we invite you to go to the ETGS website where you will find information about the requirements for application. Please go to: <http://www.etgs.org/>

Books...All Kinds of Books!

We buy books for genealogy research just as fast our little bank account will let us. At each of our



monthly meetings, we give all members and guests an opportunity to contribute to our "Birthday Fund," as we "pass the hat." Donations are ear-marked to buy library books – books that otherwise could not be purchased on our limited budget.

At a recent discussion, Mike Vaughn, co-chairman with Scott F. of the Library Committee, presented an excellent case for considering a major purchase of South Carolina resource books. Alas, while discussing how we could possibly find the "where withal," it dawned on us that we have never invited our other members from a distance who *don't* come to the meetings an equal opportunity and chance to contribute.

Still another good idea was suggested... that as we send out dues notices, we could do as other societies do and request that when paying dues by mail, members may wish to contribute an amount "over and above" annual membership dues, as a gift, to be spent strictly for books.

If it sounds like a good deal to you, we will welcome the extra \$\$ to consider buying the South Carolina books, since we have limited resource books from the "Palmetto State."

We welcome any donation, large or small, and look forward soon to announcing the purchase of our new South Carolina books - courtesy of our members. We'll list all donors in the March newsletter.

Thank you – one and all - for including your gift with your dues.

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May the special gift of health, peace, joy and happiness be yours throughout the year!



Put History Into Your Family History

“The Year Without a Summer” (also known as the “Poverty Year”) is still known today to scientists and historians as “eighteen hundred and froze to death” or the “year without a summer.” It was a period of natural ecological destruction and caused the Northern Hemisphere to be slammed with the effects of at least two abnormal but natural phenomena. These events were mysterious at the time, and even today they are not well understood.

Mona Lambrecht spoke to the Colorado Genealogical Society in October 2008 and demonstrated why and how this event could be woven into the historical context of your family history. She said, and I quote from the CGS November 2008 newsletter:

“Here’s an historic event that could certainly have impacted your ancestors. The year 1816 was widely known as “The Year Without a Summer.” Connecticut was hit by a blizzard on June 6; Savanna, Georgia had a high temperature of 46°F on July 4. Crops failed and dire warnings of impending doom were pronounced by many church groups. Modern scientists believe the cause of the extreme weather was dust and ash from the April 1815 eruption of the Tambora volcano on the island of Sumbawa near Java. But the effects were felt around the world.

“How do you think a New England farmer would have been affected? Snow and killing frosts in May and June destroyed much of New England’s crops. The price of corn and other grains rose rapidly for the small available supply. The price of oats, necessary to feed horses, went from 12 cents a bushel to 92 cents a bushel.

“Many historians consider “The Year Without a Summer” a primary motivation in 1817 for westward migration out of New England and into Western New York, Ohio, Indiana, and the Upper Midwest.

“Was this the factor that caused your ancestor to relocate?”

Think about this! There are all kinds of reasons our ancestors migrated from one place to another. After reading this article in the CGS newsletter, it gave me food for thought about the moves my own ancestors made, particularly around the year 1817.

In many states, vegetation had gotten well along in April when real winter set in. Sleet and snow fell on seventeen different days in May. Snow came down as much as five inches in the interior of New York and from ten inches to three feet in Vermont and Maine. In July and August, it worsened and killed nearly everything green in the U.S. and in Europe.

Killing frosts in June, July and August caused corn to wither in the fields, vegetables to freeze in the gardens, and most crops except the hardiest grains were killed. Some crops were replanted, only to be frozen again by another killing frost. Sleet and snow started as early as May and fell on seventeen different days. June and July were not any better. Snows started in early October and got so deep it trapped deer and prevented their escape from hunters. Many families survived only because the deer were trapped, and then the deer became very scarce, and following winter, deer could not be depended on as a source for meat, or deerskin britches and jackets. In the spring of 1817, corn that had been held over from the crop of 1815, sold for from \$5 to \$10 a bushel. Buyers purchased it for seed.

Talk about hardships! It is historical events like this one that makes us take a second look at what prompted our ancestors’ moves and the routes they took. That is why you should create a historical timeline of events, take a look at migration roads, compare with census records, record the towns each road passed through, and see if you can locate your ancestral surnames along the route. Also, pay attention to recorded birthdates over the years along these roads. Compare the towns en route. Read historical accounts of early settlements. Learn the names of the people who traveled with your ancestors.

Look at the history of the areas to see what events might have led to migration. This may lend new insights. Good luck! **J. Brown**