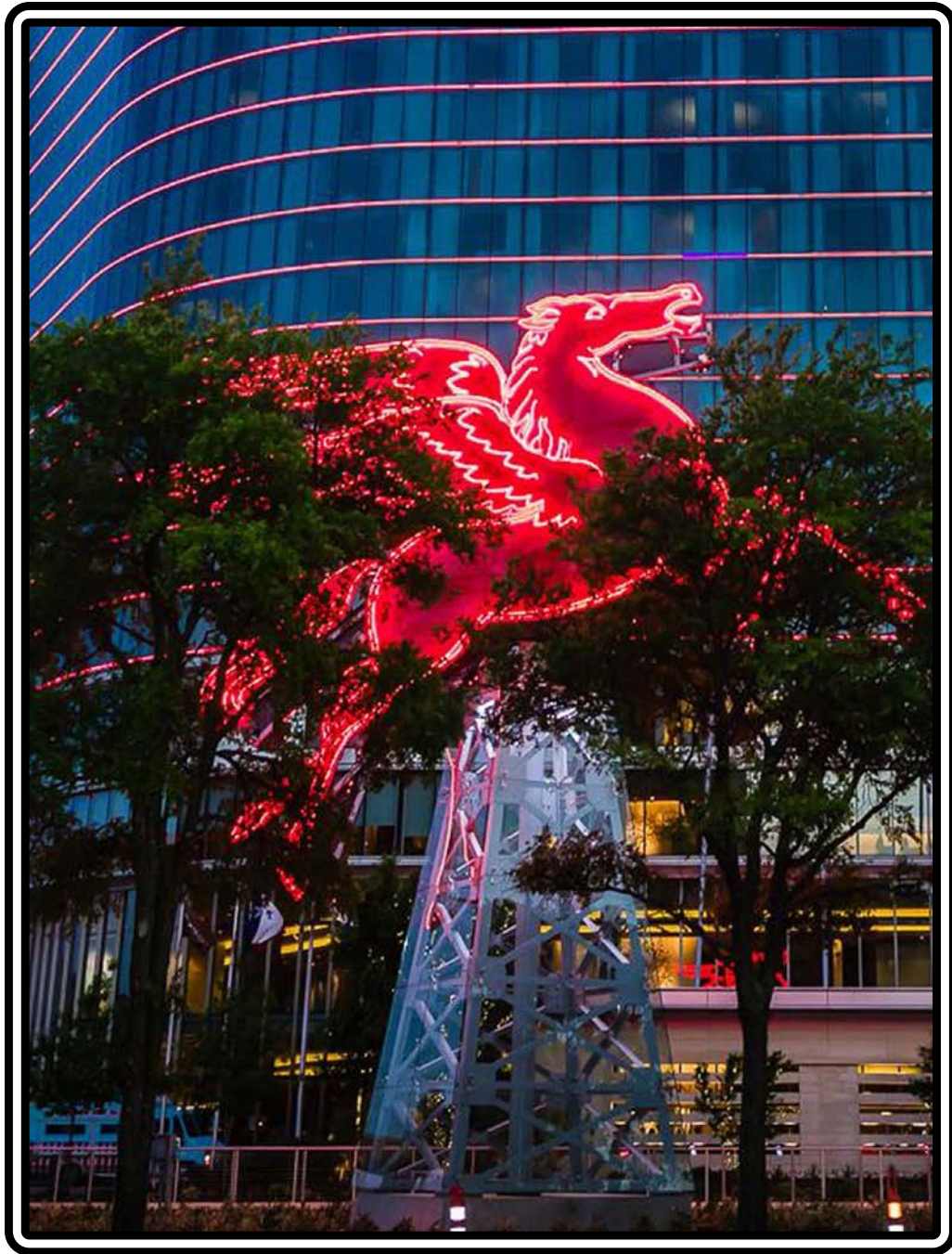


# PEGASUS

Journal of the Dallas Genealogical Society



60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE  
WINTER 2015  
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2

### ***Pegasus: Journal of the Dallas Genealogical Society***

The Publications Committee chose the name *Pegasus* for our journal because the winged horse is regarded as the symbol of the Muses and of aspiring to great accomplishments, and more importantly, because a Pegasus has been an icon of the City of Dallas for decades.

First erected in 1934 on the roof of the Magnolia Petroleum Co. headquarters on Commerce Street, the winged horse sign, fabricated by Texlite Signs in Dallas, became one of Dallas's most enduring and recognizable landmarks. In 1959, it became the logo of Mobil Oil when it merged with Magnolia Petroleum. The city conferred landmark status to the sign in 1973. In 1976, it became the property of the City of Dallas.

In 1978, the Magnolia Building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Developers bought the building in 1997 and converted it to the present-day Magnolia Hotel. In 1999, in anticipation of Dallas's Millennium Celebration, the original sign was taken down and put into storage when a new sign was commissioned. A completely new, fully-rotating sign was lit for the first time at midnight on 1 January 2000. This work was accessioned into the Public Art Collection in 2000.

### **Articles Solicited for *Pegasus: Journal of the Dallas Genealogical Society***

The DGS Publications Committee is actively seeking articles that showcase both genealogical research and writing and compilations that feature unpublished genealogical records. Articles may be submitted by members and non-members of DGS, both hobbyists and professionals. Articles may not have been previously published elsewhere.

There will be two categories of publication: research issues that feature articles (case studies, methodologies, family genealogies) and records issues that feature transcriptions, abstracts, or indexes of records not yet filmed, digitized, or published elsewhere (e.g., cemeteries, family bibles, civil, religious, business groups, etc.).

To encourage article submissions, DGS will compensate authors for their material upon publication. We are one of a handful of societies to reward authors in this manner.

Guidelines for submission and payment terms can be found at: <http://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/publications/pegasus>.

Send submissions or questions to: [pegasus@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:pegasus@dallasgenealogy.org).

### **On the Cover**

Night view of Pegasus sign, originally built in 1934 and now restored, that stands in front of the Omni Hotel in downtown Dallas. The restored sign was lit for the first time at a ceremony on 27 May 2015. See full article about the restoration in the Summer 2015 issue of *Pegasus*. Photo by Thomas Garza Photography, provided by LDWW Group and used with permission of Omni Hotels and Resorts.

# PEGASUS

Journal of the Dallas Genealogical Society

60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE  
WINTER 2015

VOLUME 3



NUMBER 2

**MICHAEL S. RAWLINGS**

**MAYOR**



**CITY OF DALLAS**

December 11, 2015

Dear Friends,

***Congratulations!***

On behalf of the City of Dallas, I would like to congratulate the Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS) as it celebrates its 60th Anniversary.

DGS was founded as the Dallas Local History and Genealogical Society in December 1955 and changed its name to the Dallas Genealogical Society in 1977. From the beginning, DGS has been faithfully committed to its mission to educate those individuals interested in researching and sharing their family history; to support the Dallas Public Library's genealogy collection through time, acquisition of materials and a variety of other means; and to work to preserve the records of the City of Dallas, Dallas County and the surrounding area for future generations.

On behalf of the City of Dallas, I commend the exemplary efforts of everyone affiliated with the Dallas Genealogical Society and extend my appreciation for your many valuable contributions to the Dallas community.

Congratulations again, and best wishes for many more years of success.

Best regards,



Michael S. Rawlings  
Mayor



## INTRODUCTION TO DGS 60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

“The ancestor of every action is a thought.”  
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

For sixty years the actions of the Dallas Genealogical Society have been guided by the thoughts expressed in its mission statement. This purpose statement has been elaborated in various ways through the years, but the three main aims have remained constant: Educate – Support – Preserve. The goal of the *Pegasus* Editorial Board for this 60th anniversary commemorative issue has been: first, to show how the mission statement was born; second, to illustrate how DGS has fulfilled its mission by reprinting key articles from past DGS publications; and third, to honor past and present members and others who have received service and book or writing awards from DGS.

**Part I** of this issue contains articles concerning the pre-history of DGS dating from 1930 to the founding of the Local History and Genealogical Society in 1955, which later changed its name to the Dallas Genealogical Society in 1977. The first article discusses the first Dallas Genealogical Society formed in 1930 as an affiliate of the Institute of American Genealogy in Chicago and the following decline in interest in genealogy until the mid-1950s. A photo of the original 1934 Pegasus sign, which is now restored and placed in front of the Omni Hotel in downtown Dallas, is featured on our cover as a reminder of the time when this first Dallas Genealogical Society was founded. The second article is extracted from librarian Margaret Barret Pratt’s article “The Development of the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library,” which recounts Pratt’s role in encouraging the reestablishment of a genealogical society in Dallas and the symbiotic relationship envisioned between it and the Dallas Public Library’s Genealogy Section. John Plath Green and Dee Brown Walker were the chosen instruments as shown by Judge Walker’s letter to the society reproduced from the *DGS Quarterly* of December 1964. The third article is a tribute to John Plath Green by Elizabeth Thurmond who knew him personally as a Sunday School teacher, employer, and friend before his interest in genealogy developed. This first section concludes with a short autobiography by Green reproduced from his book on the Cabiness family, short tributes found in DGS publications, and a formal photo of the founder of the Local History and Genealogical Society.

**Part II** consists of documents and reprints from DGS publications arranged chronologically from 1954 to the present time, which are sometimes accompanied by transcriptions or short notes. They show the planning and execution of sixty years of activities that embodied the three principles of the DGS mission statement. Even before the formal “Articles of Incorporation” were approved by the Texas Secretary of State on 12 December 1955, the Local History and Genealogical Society had held two organizational meetings in October and November of 1954. The proposed new society “committed to the PURPOSE OF FOSTERING THE COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH DPL [Dallas Public Library].” It also “would OPERATE AS A CLEARING HOUSE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF GENERAL INFORMATION AMONG ITS MEMBERS, AND TO STUDY AND MAKE AVAILABLE IMPROVED METHODS OF RESEARCH, TO LOCATE ADDITIONAL SOURCE MATERIALS, AND TO STUDY METHODS OF COMPILING GENEALOGICAL DATA.” This first articulation of the purposes of the new genealogical society can be found in the November 1954 meeting newsletter and the 25th anniversary newsletter of November 1979, both reproduced in this issue. The rest of the reprinted articles show how this firm resolve has remained for sixty years as the foundation of everything DGS has accomplished. Its support for the Dallas Public Library Genealogy Section has continued from its first project of listing and printing the inventory of genealogical books in 1955 through the huge capital improvement project, which greatly enlarged the DPL Genealogy Section in

1996, to the 100,000 Book Challenge in 2005, and is still evident in 2015 with the DGS gift of a book scanner worth about thirty thousand dollars. Educational programs and preservation projects still continue to this day.

**Part III** concerns DGS service and writing awards given to members and others over the years. Sandra Crowley highlights the importance of DGS volunteers in the success DGS has enjoyed and presents a listing of the service awards given by DGS to honor its own volunteers and other individuals or organizations who have contributed over the years directly or indirectly to realizing shared goals. Marianne Szabo describes how from its earliest beginnings the society encouraged members to write their family histories, then chose to recognize the quality of these efforts first with awards for the best book, and later with awards for writing in a variety of categories and formats. A major benefit of these awards was that each book submitted to the awards competitions became the property of the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library. Many of them are still in the library catalog as reference materials that members can access today.

Finally, the editorial team of *Pegasus* would like to thank Joanne Corney for her much-appreciated help and to give a special thanks to the staff of the Genealogy Division and the staff of the Local and Texas History Division for their patience and assistance in locating the materials we needed for this special commemorative issue.

*Pegasus Editorial Team (in alphabetical order)*

Sandra Crowley

Janet Khashab

Ed Millis

Shirley Sloat

Marianne Szabo

Julie Cahill Tarr

Elizabeth Thurmond

**CONGRATULATIONS  
DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
DIAMOND JUBILEE**

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# PART I



# THE EARLY YEARS



## DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF SERVICE (OR 85 YEARS IF ITS ANCESTOR IS INCLUDED)

by Janet Khashab, AG®

On the 12th of December in 1955 the Secretary of State of Texas approved the articles of incorporation submitted by the members of the "Local History and Genealogical Society" in Dallas. The new organization was issued a charter (no. 129750). Twenty-two years later on 25 January 1977 approval was given by the Secretary of State for the organization to change its name to the "Dallas Genealogical Society" thus linking it to its earlier ancestor.

The intention to form the first "Dallas Genealogical Society" was announced in the *Dallas (Texas) Morning News* on 1 June 1930.

### Genealogical Society To Be Formed in Dallas

The Dallas Genealogical Society, to be affiliated with the Institute of American Genealogy, will be formed shortly by invitation to residents interested in the subject, it was announced Saturday, Sam P. Cochran and Mrs. George E. Bell are acting for the committee in charge.

The objects of the society will be to foster interest in genealogy and local history, to employ a competent genealogist to aid its members in tracing their own lineages, to provide research facilities in connection with genealogical material in the Dallas public library and other local centers and to concentrate upon the collection of genealogical, biological and vital records of Dallas, which will become a uniform and integral part of the national, as well as local, archives.

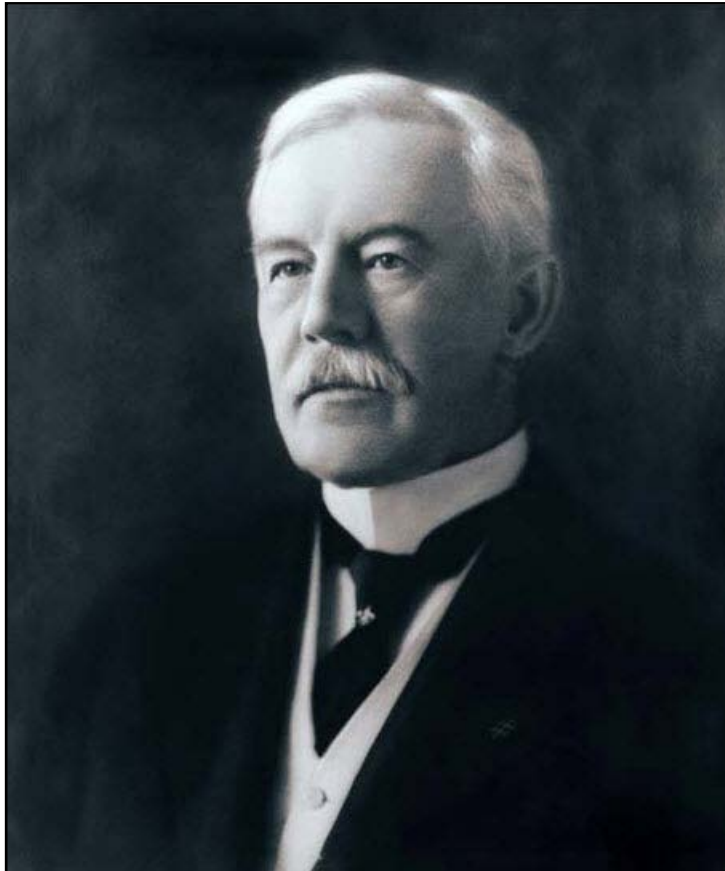
"Genealogical Society To Be Formed in Dallas," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 1 June 1930, sect. 1, p. 13, col. 5.

The Institute of American Genealogy with which the newly formed Dallas Genealogical Society was to be affiliated was the brainchild of Fredrick A. Virkus (1879–1955), the controversial owner of a Chicago-based genealogical publishing company.<sup>1</sup> However, the two main organizers of the Dallas chapter, Sam P. Cochran and Mrs. George E. Bell, were highly respected members of the Dallas community and the objectives of the proposed genealogical society were very similar to the ones upheld by the present Dallas Genealogical Society.

Samuel Poyntz Cochran (1855–1936) and Mrs. Fannie Osborne Slaughter Bell (1868–1946) were born respectively in Kentucky and Tennessee and both were members of several heritage organizations including the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution as were many of the early leaders of Dallas.<sup>2</sup> The death and burial of Sam Cochran occasioned the publishing of a eulogy in the *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*:

It is not difficult to discern the measure of a man's value to his neighbors. When a man puts honesty, energy and integrity into his own business and into his dealing with those about him, he commands respect and affection. Sam P. Cochran displayed these characteristics throughout his long and useful life.... The guiding star of Sam P. Cochran was service. Successful far beyond the average in his own chosen walk of life, he believed that he owed the world about him an interest in its affairs, so that his efforts were directed toward bettering its conditions....<sup>3</sup>

On Friday night, 3 October 1930 the charter members of the Dallas Genealogical Society, which included the Dallas Public Library, met in North Dallas High School “to elect officers



Samuel P. Cochran (1855–1936)



Fannie Slaughter Bell (1868–1946)

*Part I: The Early Years*

and trustees and to discuss the purpose of the society.”<sup>4</sup> E. B. Comstock was elected the first president of the society and monthly meetings began to be held at the downtown YWCA.<sup>5</sup>

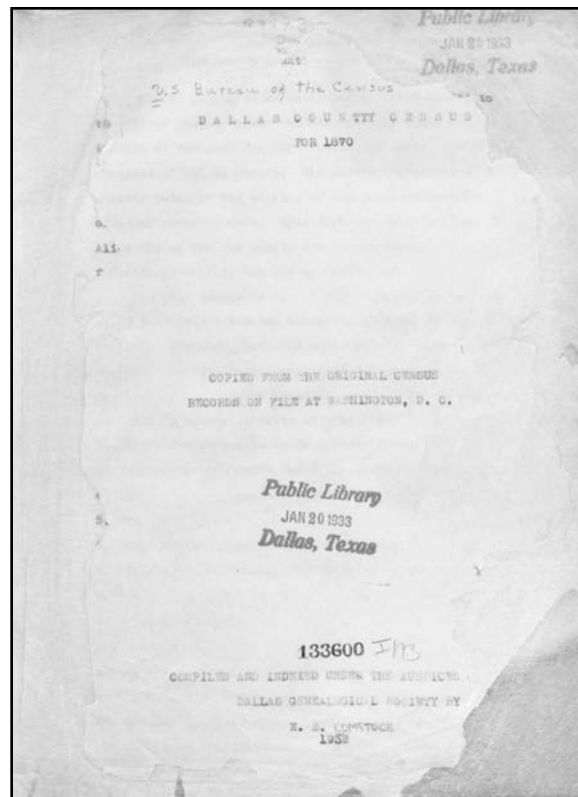
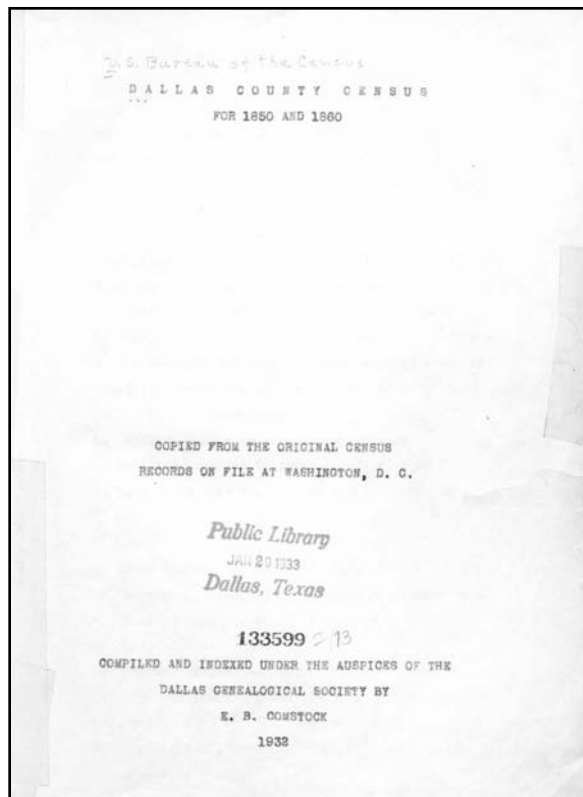
Ernest Bernard Comstock was born in Riga, Michigan, on 24 March 1879. He graduated from Oberlin College in 1905 and received his Master’s degree from the University of Chicago in 1926. After several years of teaching and being a high school principal and superintendent in Ohio public schools, he moved to Bonham, Texas, in 1911 to become the editor of the town newspaper. He moved to Dallas in 1914 and joined the public school system as a teacher and an administrator. He was appointed as the first principal of North Dallas High School in 1922 and remained there until 1945 when he became assistant superintendent of Dallas high schools.<sup>6</sup>



PRINCIPAL E. B. COMSTOCK

E. B. Comstock (1879–1956), North Dallas High School, *The Viking Yearbook*, 1944; photo courtesy of Ed Millis.

However, as his 1956 obituary stated “Genealogy was Comstock’s avocation and he wrote several pamphlets and books on that subject.”<sup>7</sup> Although Comstock only held the president’s position in the newly formed Dallas Genealogical Society for one year, he later held various positions including that of a director. He was instrumental in obtaining typewritten copies of the United States Census of Dallas County for 1850, 1860 and 1870. These were bound in red leather and presented to the Dallas Public Library in 1933.<sup>8</sup> Comstock also later served as head of the first Finance Committee of the newly formed “Local History and Genealogical Society” in 1955.<sup>9</sup>



Title pages from *Dallas County Census for 1850 and 1860* and *Dallas County Census for 1870*, compiled and indexed by E. B. Comstock of the Dallas Genealogical Society. A copy of each book was given to the Dallas Public Library by Comstock in 1933.



J. Howard Payne (1884–1968)

John Howard Payne (1884–1968) was elected as the next president of the Dallas Genealogical Society in 1931 and continued in this position until at least 1933.<sup>10</sup> He became the Dallas postmaster in 1940 and held this position for fifteen years and he served as president of ten various civic and service organizations from the time he came to Dallas in 1906.<sup>11</sup>

The following editorial letter was published in the *Dallas (Texas) Morning News* as a tribute to J. Howard Payne following his death:

There were giants in Dallas in those days and the littlest giant of these was J. Howard Payne, who scarcely managed to rise over 4 feet tall. His death April 15 removes this littlest giant from our midst forever. ... Payne was a man of so many interests and accomplishments that his obituary spilled over columns and columns of the newspaper.... These were



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men of broad knowledge, curiosity, experience, civilization and immense talents, who, born elsewhere, chose to live out their greatness in Dallas. They were, above all, humanitarians, in a great and ancient tradition....<sup>12</sup>

Interest in the Dallas Genealogical Society went into a decline after 1934 and was not revived until 1954 with the name of the Local History and Genealogical Society of Dallas under the leadership of another Renaissance man, John Plath Green. The disruptive events of these twenty years, the Great Depression, World War II and the Cold War, must have led to a decline in interest in genealogy, which is confirmed by a Gallup poll in 1950.<sup>13</sup>

The quantity and quality of newspaper articles found in the *Dallas (Texas) Morning News* concerning genealogy also mirror this descent. In 1932 Fannie Ratchford, the well-known librarian at the Wren Library at the University of Texas at Austin from 1919 to 1957, wrote a weekly column "About Your Ancestors," which was carried in the *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*. In one of her articles she wrote about the connection of history and genealogy:

History is no longer written by inspiration or from imagination and hearsay—it is written from documents. Neither can genealogies be compiled until family data is placed on record. ... These materials gathered primarily for historical work are of equally great genealogical value—history and genealogy are inseparable.<sup>14</sup>

In contrast to Ratchford's series of articles there were news items of more typical general interest including one that highlighted a woman's claim to have traced her ancestors back to Adam and Eve.<sup>15</sup> This occasioned a letter to the editor that stated the woman's research should have continued back to the Neanderthal man or "anyone else beyond Adam." The letter continued by poking fun at genealogical research:

Verily, genealogy is an interesting study, and I have heard that there are those who can construct any kind of family tree that a man may wish—if sufficiently compensated—and that these are always glad to get in touch with people who have newly come into wealth and wish to clear up their ancestry.<sup>16</sup>

In 1943 an actual federal case in Dallas, which arose from allegations of this type of hypothetical genealogical research, was reported involving the heirs of Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Lane and the American Historical Company, Inc. of New York. Mrs. Lane, who had been a charter member of the Dallas Genealogical Society, and her husband commissioned a book from the New York company that traced Mrs. Lane's lineage to Charlemagne. The completed volume cost \$18,050 for preparation, engraving, and printing. A balance of \$8,355 was still due, which the executors of the Lane estates refused to pay.<sup>17</sup>

After delivery of the complete volume a year ago, following the death of Mrs. Lane and the earlier demise of her husband, the heirs challenged the accuracy of the royal lineage presented, charged fraud had been perpetrated and that the cost of the volume was excessive.

Judge William H. Atwell, in his charge to the jury, narrowed the issues down to the matter of accuracy of the genealogy presented in the book. He ruled no fraud had been shown and that the jury should take no note of the cost of the book because it had been contracted for by intelligent persons.

Judge Narrows Issues.

'I submit to you the question of whether the book is true,' Judge Atwell told the jury. 'One side says it is true. The other says it is untrue. Neither side knows, gentlemen, because they were not there when the questioned events did or did not take place. They rely on historical works.

'If you find there were errors made and they were made in good faith in the belief they were true, then you will find for the plaintiff. If you find errors were made and they were known to the plaintiff, then the plaintiff is not entitled to recover.'<sup>18</sup>

Two genealogists testified at the trial. For the defense Mrs. Margaret Scruggs Carruth, a Dallas genealogist and a charter member of the Dallas Genealogical Society, testified against the plaintiff. Mrs. Myrtle M. Lewis, head genealogist and vice-president of the American Historical Company refuted the testimony of Mrs. Carruth. The jury took about twenty minutes to decide in favor of the company.<sup>19</sup>

For twenty years the slack of this long dormant period of the Dallas Genealogical Society chapter of the Institute of American Genealogy had been taken up by the many lineage societies of Dallas who had their own genealogical activities and projects.<sup>20</sup> However, a younger generation of genealogists was coming of age and by 1954 they were ready to form a new independent society, which has continued to serve the Dallas and Northeast Texas community and is now celebrating the sixtieth year of its foundation.

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### Author Biography

Janet Khashab is an Accredited Genealogist<sup>®</sup> with ICAPGen<sup>®</sup> (International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists) since 2009. She has been a member of DGS since 2006 and has served on its board of directors as vice president of education (2008–2009), president (2010–2011), and immediate past president (2012–2013). She has served on the editorial board of *Pegasus* since 2013.

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### ENDNOTES

1. For a lively discussion of the merits of Virkus's *Compendium* and the role of the Institute, see David Green, "Virkus's Compendium," 24 July 1997, *GEN-MEDIEVAL-L Archives* (<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/1997-07/0869760269> : accessed 3 October 2015). Also, for a more professional view, see Donald Lines Jacobus, *Genealogy as Pastime and Profession* 2nd ed. (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1968), 45–46.

2. For Samuel, see "Kentucky, Birth Records, 1852–1910," database and digital images, *Ancestry* (<http://ancestry.com>), entry for Saml P. Cochran (1855). Also, "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903–1982," database and digital images, *Ancestry*, entry for Sam Poyntz Cochran (1936). Also, "Sam P. Cochran Buried Following Masonic Service," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 13 February 1936, sect. 2, p. 1, col. 3. Also, "U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889–1970," database and digital images, *Ancestry*, entry for Samuel Poyntz Cochran. For Fannie, see "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903–1982," *Ancestry*, entry for Mrs. Fannie Slaughter Bell. Also, "Services Today for Mrs. Bell," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 17 October 1946, sect. 2, p. 16, col. 5–6. Also, "Daughters of the American Revolution Lineage Books (152 Vols.)," database with transcriptions, *Ancestry*, entry for Mrs. Fannie Slaughter Bell; citing vol. 122, p. 172.

3. "Sam P. Cochran," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 13 February 1936, sect. 2, p. 4, col. 2.

4. "Genealogy Society to Elect Officers," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 31 October 1930, sect. 1, p. 6, col. 4.

5. "Genealogical Society to Meet Friday Night," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 18 December 1930, sect. 1, p. 6, col. 5. Also, "Genealogical Society Told How Records Kept," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 20 December 1930, sect. 2, p. 13, col. 7. Also, "History of Families for Ten Generations To Be Meeting Topic," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 11 January 1931, sect. "Society," p. 1, col. 1.

6. "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903–1982," *Ancestry*, entry for Ernest Bernard Comstock (1956). Also, "E. B. Comstock and W. O. Pipes Honored by North Dallas High," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 15 October 1945, sect. 2, p. 1, col. 2–3. Also, "Death Takes Ex-Official of Schools," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 5 April 1956, sect. 1, p. 1, col. 7.

7. "Death Takes Ex-Official of Schools," sect. 1, p. 1, col. 7 and p. 3, col. 3.

*Part I: The Early Years*

8. "List of First Families of Dallas Made Available on Genealogy," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 26 November 1932, sect. 2, p. 1, col. 3–4. Also, "County 'Before War' and French Colony's Facts are Compiled," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 15 January 1933, sect. 2, p. 1, col. 8. Also, "Genealogical Society Gives Library Records of Dallas' Early Days," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 18 January 1933, sect. 1, p. 4, col. 3; unfortunately, the original red leather covers have not survived.

9. *Local History & Genealogical Society (Dallas, Texas) [Newsletter]* 1 (February 1955): 1.

10. "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903–1982," *Ancestry*, entry for John Howard Payne Senior (1968). Also, "Organization Activities," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 11 October 1931, sect. 3, p. 7, col. 2–8. Also, "Heraldry to Be Topic of Genealogical Talk," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 21 February 1932, sect. 2, p. 1, col. 5. Also, "Genealogical Society Gives Library Records of Dallas' Early Days," sect. 1, p. 4, col. 3.

11. "J. Howard Payne, 83, Retired Postmaster, Dies," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 16 April 1968, p. A1, col. 5–6.

12. "Letters from Readers: J. Howard Payne: The Littlest Giant," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 20 April 1968, p. D2, col. 6.

13. "Interest in Genealogy Low, Survey Indicates," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 24 January 1950, sect. 1, p. 6, col. 3–4.

14. "About Your Ancestors," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 20 March 1932, sect. 4, p. 2, col. 6–7.

15. "Woman Traces Genealogy Back 150 Generations to Adam, Eve," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 25 February 1935, sect. 2, p. 8, col. 3–4.

16. "Letters from Readers: About Ancestors," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 28 February 1935, sect. 2, p. 4, col. 6–7.

17. "Descent from Charlemagne Denied by Heirs of Mrs. Lane," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 6 May 1943, sect. 2, p. 1, col. 3–4.

18. "Genealogists Win \$8,355 Suit Involving Lane Family History," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 7 May 1943, sect. 1, p. 1, col. 5–6.

19. *Ibid.*

20. For example, see "Colonists Daughters Endorses Mrs. Hawley," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 6 September 1942, sect. 3, p. 3, col. 5; and "Founders Day Ceremonies are Slated," *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, 14 May 1954, sect. 2, p. 6, col. 1.

## MARGARET BARRET PRATT'S MEMORIES OF THE FOUNDING OF THE LOCAL HISTORY AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF DALLAS<sup>1</sup>

*Extracted and annotated by Janet Khashab, AG<sup>®</sup>*

By 1937 when I started to work at the Dallas Public Library in the Reference Department, there were two other librarians in that section. The large room on the top floor of the old building<sup>2</sup> was filled with reference books and bound periodicals of all kinds. There was also a small collection of genealogical books and periodicals most of which had been donated.

...

Because I was more interested in the genealogy books than the other two librarians, I was given a check for \$50.00 one day to buy more genealogy books. Such books were becoming even more expensive than they had been a year or so before. I thought a long, long time before I decided to spend that check for *one* book but later events proved it a wise selection. It was a book by R. A. Brock of records of a French Huguenot settlement at Manakin Town in Virginia, which had been published in 1886. I felt that these records would be *hard to find* elsewhere and ordered it.

It had been on the shelf only a few days when a stranger came in and said he had been sent to us for help. He said his mother had recently died and left a trunk full of old family pictures and notes on family history. Among those was one saying that they were descended from a French Huguenot family by the name of Cabiness. I brought the new book and in the index was the name of Cabiness! He was most *amazed* and *delighted*. He sat down and made extensive notes from it and also looked at many other books in the Genealogy Section. He was so pleased and said that he had never dreamed that such books were in the library and that he would come back soon. He was. The man was Mr. John Plath Green.<sup>3</sup> Mr. Green had been bitten severely by the "Genealogy Bug" and he has never been the same since! He became one of the library's staunchest supporters!

...

On another day<sup>4</sup> a young man came in to see what he could find on his family. He was Mr. Dee Brown Walker (now Judge Walker).<sup>5</sup> I told him of Mr. Green's interest and Mr. Green talked to him....

One day about the middle of 1954, Mr. Green called and asked if I thought that there might be people who would be interested in meeting and exchanging ideas on their methods of research. I told him I felt sure there were and called various patrons. They all said they were interested but that the meeting would have to be at night. I then called the Dallas Power and Light Company and asked about reserving their auditorium. They said we might, so I called Mr. Green, told him about it and asked if he wanted it reserved for a night meeting. He did and I reserved it. The meeting proved to be a most enthusiastic one and it was decided that they would organize and continue to meet. Mr. Green was elected President. A committee was appointed to handle certain matters of the new organization.

Since the library at the Union Station was closed at night, Mr. Green, who was on the board of the Downtown Branch of the Y.M.C.A. at 605 North Ervay, said he thought he could arrange for the group to get their lunch there, and have a business meeting and a program during that time.

The first monthly meeting was held at the Downtown Y.M.C.A. on October 26, 1954. The minutes of the *Dallas Association of Genealogy and Local History* record that 22 people were present. Then on

## Part I: The Early Years

November 2, 1954, Mr. John Plath Green wrote a letter, which is in the files of the Dallas Public Library, in which he stated that he arbitrarily called the organization *The Dallas Association of Genealogy and Local History*.

At the November 30, 1955 monthly meeting at the new Dallas Public Library<sup>6</sup> Dee Brown Walker presented the charter which stated [that] the name of this corporation is *Local History and Genealogical Society* and this name continues since that time.<sup>7</sup> It was granted by the State of Texas, December 13, 1954 [sic].<sup>8</sup> The members present signed it.

**Biographical Note:** Margaret Barret Pratt was born in 1898 in Tennessee but lived in Texas as a child. She graduated from Southern Methodist University with a BA and later obtained a Library Science degree. She married James Pratt, a fellow SMU classmate, who died when their son was eight. In the fall of 1937 she started her career at the Dallas Public Library and remained there for twenty-five years until her retirement in 1962. She founded the Texas History and Genealogy Department of the library and was one of the founding members of what became known as the Dallas Genealogical Society. She stated in her own biographical sketch attached to her original article about her time at the DPL: “Though I worked hard and put in much overtime, I never was bored. I loved everything about it.” She died in Dallas in 1983, remembered and loved by all who knew her.

### ENDNOTES

1. Extracted and annotated by Janet Khashab from the original article “The Development of the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library” by Margaret Barret Pratt (1893–1983), which was published in *Local History & Genealogical Society Quarterly (Dallas, Texas)* 11 (Spring/March 1975): 1–12.

2. Mrs. Pratt is referring to the original Carnegie Library built in 1901 on Harwood and Commerce, which was demolished in 1954. For a history of the Dallas Public Library, see Michael V. Hazel, *The Dallas Public Library: Celebrating a Century of Service, 1901–2001* (Denton, Texas: University of North Texas Press, 2001).

3. Green’s mother Nora Olive Rape Green died in 1931; “Texas, Death Certificates, 1903–1982,” database and digital images, *Ancestry* (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 14 October 2015), entry for Nora Olive Green. Since Mrs. Pratt joined the reference department of the library in 1937, her statement that John Plath Green’s mother had “recently died” is perhaps a slip of memory.

4. Here Mrs. Pratt is referring to the period 1954–1955 when the old Carnegie Library was demolished and the new Dallas Public Library building was being built in nearly the same location. During this time period the library collection was moved temporarily to the upper floor of Union Station.

5. Judge Dee Brown Walker (1912–2006) was later elected president of the society in 1963.

6. The one on the corner of Harwood and Commerce, which was completed in 1955.

7. The original charter with the signatures is reproduced in this issue of *Pegasus* (see pages 22–24). The name of the organization was changed to *Dallas Genealogical Society* in 1977 (see page 27).

8. Mrs. Pratt put this as the date, but the correct date is 12 December 1955; see the reproduction of the original copy of the charter in this issue (see pages 22–24).

*The Local History and Genealogical Society of Dallas  
cordially invites you to a  
Tea  
honoring Mrs. Margaret Barret Pratt  
Sunday Afternoon, September Twenty-third,  
Nineteen hundred sixty-two,  
"Cedar Crest", 6840 Lakewood Boulevard, Dallas, Texas  
Three to Five O'clock*

*Please make written reservations  
before Wednesday, September 19th,  
Mrs. Harry Joseph Morris,  
6840 Lakewood Blvd., Dallas 14, Texas*

*Seventy-five Cents  
per person.*

*Guest of the Society.*

Invitation to Margaret Barret Pratt's retirement tea.



Tea given by L.H. & G.S. honoring Mrs. Margaret Barret Pratt, June, 1962 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Joseph Morris. Front Row (L-R): Mrs. Harry Joseph Morris, Vice-President, Membership; Mr. Thomas S. Walker, President; Mrs. Margaret Barret Pratt, Head, Texas History & Genealogy Department of Dallas Public Library, a Founder, and a Director, L.H. & G.S.; Mr. John D. Thornton, Vice-President, Editor; Mr. W. R. Conger, Executive Vice-President. Back Row (L-R): Mrs. Pansy McGehee Lindley, Member; Mr. Harry Joseph Morris, Member; Mr. John Plath Green, President-Emeritus.





DEE BROWN WALKER  
JUDGE 162<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT COURT  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202  
November 12, 1964

To the Members of the  
Local History & Genealogical Society

Dear Friends:

I dedicate this last issue of our 1964 Quarterly to our dear friend, Mrs. Margaret B. Pratt, formerly head of the Texas History and Genealogical Department of the Dallas Public Library. Mrs. Pratt suggested to our President Emeritus, John Plath Green, and some of the rest of us, that we start our organization.

Through the years she has been our capable advisor and good friend. We owe to her, because of her tireless energy, a great debt of gratitude.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dee Brown Walker".

DEE BROWN WALKER

DBW:bt

P. S. I desire to thank all of the members of our Society for their enthusiastic support of me in my recent election to my present court. Your friendship and good wishes are appreciated more than you realize.

DBW

## **I REMEMBER JOHN PLATH GREEN: MY SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER, MY EMPLOYER, MY FRIEND**

*by Elizabeth Nelson Thurmond*

In 1947 my husband and I started attending Mt. Auburn Christian Church at Graham and Gurley Streets in East Dallas. We had a number of friends there, and we immediately joined their very active Sunday School class for young adults, the Open Heart Class. It was taught by a likeable, outgoing young lawyer, John Plath Green. He and his lovely wife, Margueritte Tatum Green, were the perfect couple to guide a bunch of returning veterans who were settling down and starting families. Johnny was also a veteran who was reestablishing his civilian life. I remember that he was enthusiastic about everything in which he involved himself. Several members of the class planned and printed (mimeographed) a newsletter called *The Green Corn*, which included short articles about who was getting married, who was expecting a baby, and other gossipy tidbits about class members.

Most of us were childless at the time and had a very active social life—lots of Sunday School parties and Canasta games in which Johnny and Margueritte joined. Although they were a little older (in fact, Johnny graduated from high school the year I was born), at this time they were still childless and had plenty of time for a heavy social life.

After we had been attending the class for a while, Johnny decided to leave the large law firm with which he had been associated and set up his own civil law practice. I was looking around for a job change as I was not satisfied with the criminal law office in which I worked, so I became his secretary. Jobs were plentiful at that time. His primary client, but certainly not the only one, was the W. H. Cothrum Company, and he set up his office in their cottage-style building on North Field Street. It was on the site of a current parking lot across from the Perot Museum. On a small chunk of the museum property was Dutch's Café where the employees in our building often went for coffee breaks.

I worked for Johnny until I left the job market to raise a family. If he had an interest in genealogy during that time, I was not aware of it. But as we remember at this time of celebrating the Dallas Genealogical Society's 60th anniversary, he became the first president of what started out as the Local History and Genealogical Society. He had a very wide range of interests. I know that he was interested in politics and later was elected to the Dallas School Board and I think he served as its president.

I will always remember Johnny and Margueritte with fondness. They were a part of my life so long ago.

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### **Author Biography**

Liz Thurmond has been a DGS member since 1994 and a Life Member since 2007 and has served on its board of directors as parliamentarian (2004–2005) and mail administrator (2010–2013). She also worked on the project to prepare Dallas County court records for filming by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints during Shirley Sloat's term. Liz currently serves as a proofreader for *Pegasus*.

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**BIOGRAPHIES AND TRIBUTES TO FOUNDER  
JOHN PLATH GREEN (1910-1984)**

accdf-abh JOHN PLATH GREEN - Born 11 December 1910 at 2924 McKinnon Street, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas; son of George Athel Green (accdf-ab) and Nora Olive Rape; attended Dallas Public Schools; was graduated May, 1928 from Forest Avenue High School; received LLB degree from The University of Texas, May, 1938; honorary fraternity: Phi Eta Sigma; at the University, was vice president of the student body, president of the University YMCA, and president of the Tejas Club; joined law firm of Storey, Sanders, Sherrill & Armstrong in June, 1938; served in World War II in the field artillery, inducted as a private and separated from the service as a major of field artillery; graduate of Officers Candidate Course #27; Officers Advanced Course #24; Command and General Staff School, Leavenworth, Kansas, Class #17; director of Replacement Center School, Field Artillery Replacement Center, Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Army Artillery Intelligence Officer, Eighth Army under the command of General Robert L. Eichelberger; was placed in command of liberation and evacuation of prisoners of war and civilian internees from the four main islands of Japan, for which action he received the Legion of Merit from General Douglas MacArthur; was awarded Bronze Star by the 41st Infantry Division for directing artillery fire in the Zamboanga, Philippine Islands, Campaign; presently a lieutenant colonel of field artillery, in the United States Army (Reserve); member of the law firm of Sanders, Lefkowitz & Green, Kirby Building, Dallas, Texas; Deacon, Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Dallas; director, InsurOmedic Life Insurance Company; director, Kiwanis Club of North Dallas-Park Cities; director and counselor for South & East Dallas Chamber of Commerce; director, Dallas Young Men's Christian Association; director, City-County Crime Laboratory; director, Community Guidance Service; married 6 September 1941 in the Mount Auburn Christian Church to Margueritte Francine Tatom, daughter of Walter Jackson Tatom and Mary Katherine Ward Tatom; children: John Randall Green (accdf-abha) and Nancy Robin Green (accdf-abhb).

Reproduced from *Henry Cabaniss and his Descendants* compiled by John Plath Green (Dallas: J. P. Green, 1956).


\* \* \* \* \*

The Newsletter pauses to pay tribute to the founder and first President of the Local History and Genealogical Society which became the Dallas Genealogical Society, Mr. John Plath Green. Without his untiring efforts, and his generous contributions it is quite possible that we would have neither the Dallas Genealogical Society or the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library. His recent passing does not go unnoticed. A fitting memorial from the Society in his memory will be announced later.

\* \* \* \* \*

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, May 1984, Issue 71.

**50 YEARS AGO**



When DGS was born in 1955, the first president was John Plath Green, a prominent attorney who was active in his city, his schools and his church. An East Dallas native, he graduated from Forest Avenue High School, the University of Texas at Austin, and served in World War II. In addition to his service as a trustee and vice-president of the Dallas Public Library, he served on the Dallas School Board and was president for several years. Other areas in which he was active were the Metropolitan Advisory Committee, president of both South and East Dallas Chambers of Commerce, State Bar of Texas, Dallas Bar Association, Dallas County Heritage Society, Dallas Historical Society, East Dallas Kiwanis and the Dallas Chamber of Commerce. John died in 1984, and his widow, Margueritte, an honorary life member of DGS, died in 2004. Our Society is indebted to our forward-looking citizens.

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, April 2005, Volume 29, Number 4.



From Collections of the Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division, Dallas Public Library.

**John Plath Green (1910–1984)**  
**Founder, Dallas Genealogical Society**





# PART II



IMAGES & ARTICLES 1954–2015



7  
Mrs. J. A. Wellborn  
Mrs. W. O. Alvis  
Mrs. James P. Owen  
Nov. 1954

DALLAS ASSOCIATION OF GENEALOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY

Our November meeting will be held at the Downtown Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association, 605 North Ervay, at 12:00 noon, on Monday, November 22, 1954.

We urge that each person be present and to bring a friend with him interested in our project. Please let us have your reservation as soon as possible. You may call Mrs. Barbara Norwood, PProspect 4851, to make reservations.

We have completed the special project, modeled after the work done by the St. Louis Library so far as the State of North Carolina is concerned.

The following persons have been appointed to Chair Committees:

Chairman Membership Committee

> Mrs. J. A. Wellborn  
5922 Gaston Avenue  
Dallas, Texas  
Telephone: TAYlor 9534

Chairman Telephone Committee

Mrs. W. O. Alvis  
4133 Stanhope  
Dallas, Texas  
Telephone: JUstin 9257

Chairman Special Project Committee  
(modeled after St. Louis)

> Mrs. James P. Owen  
3525 Bryn Mawr  
Dallas, Texas  
Telephone: EMerson 5259

Mrs. Margaret Pratt reports that she has received the following new books at the Dallas Public Library:

Shoptaugh, L.A.D., Some Descendants of Jonas Halsted (1610-1682) And Some Allied Families

de Garmo, Mrs. Frank Pathfinders of Texas, 1836-1846 (Nueces County, Texas, and Corpus Christi)

Five volumes of New Jersey wills covering the period of 1796 to 1817.

Two more volumes of Maryland wills.

Burns, A. W., Abstract of Baltimore County Wills, four volumes (1783-1805)

Ten volumes of the magazine the American Genealogist.

STATE OF TEXAS    }
                  \*
COUNTY OF DALLAS }
                  }

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

Approved & filed in the office of the Secretary of State of Texas on 12/30/55 by [Signature] Deputy Ass't Secy of State.

That we, the undersigned, being residents and citizens of the County of Dallas and State of Texas, do hereby voluntarily associate ourselves together for the purpose of forming a non-profit corporation as provided by Article 1302, Subdivision 105, of the Revised Civil Statutes of Texas under the terms and conditions set out as follows:

I

The name of this corporation is Local History & Genealogical Society.

II

The purpose of this organization is educational, to-wit:

To create, foster and maintain interest among citizens of Dallas County in the Genealogy and Local History Section of the Dallas Public Library.

To collect and preserve information relating to those pioneers who settled Dallas County and to the early history of this City and County.

To preserve church, cemetery and land records, testamentary documents, diaries and manuscripts, and other source materials wherein are chronicled the achievements of those who laid in the wilderness the foundations of this great community.

To copy and index all such records, and to catalogue them so as to make this information most readily available to present and future generations.

To collect and make available through the Dallas Public Library the published records of other States, whence came the Texas pioneers.

To exchange ideas and collaborate in devising efficient methods for genealogical and historical research.

III

The place where the principal business of this Corporation is to be transacted is Dallas, Dallas County, Texas.

IV

The terms for which this Corporation is to exist is fifty years from and after date of incorporation.

V

This Corporation shall be managed and controlled by nine directors. The names and residences of those selected to serve for the first year and until their successors have been elected and qualified are as follows:

[Handwritten initials]

Part II: Images & Articles 1954-2015

NAME:	RESIDENCE
<u>John Plath Green</u>	<u>Dallas, Dallas County, Texas</u>
<u>Charles LeRoy Syron</u>	<u>" " " "</u>
<u>Jane McGuire Alvis</u>	<u>" " " "</u>
<u>Anna Gandy Walker</u>	<u>" " " "</u>
<u>Charles Lee Noland</u>	<u>" " " "</u>
<u>Gladys Dodge Birt</u>	<u>" " " "</u>
<u>Hazel A. Peterson</u>	<u>" " " "</u>
<u>Margaret Scruggs Carruth</u>	<u>" " " "</u>
<u>Willie Flowers Carlisle</u>	<u>" " " "</u>

VI

This Corporation shall have no capital stock and shall admit persons as members into the society upon the payment of such membership fees and other uniform conditions as may be provided in the By-Laws.

This Corporation owns no property at this time but may acquire and own such property as may be necessary for the successful operation of its affairs, and to that end create and establish appropriate reserves for working capital in the manner to be provided in the By-Laws.

The voting power of the members of this Society shall be in accordance with the By-Laws and no member shall be entitled to more than one vote.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto subscribed our names, this the 30th day of November, A. D. 1955.

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for Dallas County, Texas, on this day personally appeared:

*Willie Flowers Carlisle*  
*Margaret Ann Scruggs (Mrs. Carruth)*  
*Viola Knoble Kucera (Mrs. A. E.)*  
*Bonnie Walter Dixon (Mrs. W. B.)*  
*Elsina Bruton Roggenbrod*  
*Effie Nowwood Jones (Mrs. H. Q. Sr.)*  
*Rose Alexander Syron*  
*Helytes Anderson Callas (Mrs. James W.)*  
*Margaret Barret Pratt*  
*Charles Lee Noland*

*C-2*  
2.

Charles LeRoy Syron  
Maggie May Jife  
Pauline Johnson McDonald (Mrs)  
Margaret Winter Priest Shores (Mrs. C. V.)  
Emily Jane Critcher Taylor  
Martha Knight Adams  
Mary Wood Lamm  
Jane M. Jure Alois  
Ada B. Peoples  
Mabel Wilkerson  
Fanny Hunt Sackett  
Maud May Croft Erickson  
Mary Catherine Gregg Langley  
Allie Moore Boon (Mrs. J. P.)  
Vernon Laughter  
Lee Brown Weber  
Anna Lu Sandy Walker  
John Blath Green  
Mary Francis Blevans Zehner  
Ada L. Bruton  
Iola Blair Ward  
Hazel A. Peterson

known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that they each executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

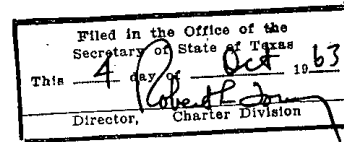
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this 30th day of November, 1955.



ALICE S. NICHOLS  
*Alice S. Nichols*  
Notary Public, Dallas County, Texas

C-3

ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT  
OF  
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Pursuant to the provisions of Article 4.03 of the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, the undersigned corporation adopts the following Articles of Amendment to its Articles of Incorporation by amending Article II by providing on dissolution that any remaining funds shall be given to the Local History & Genealogical Department of the Dallas Public Library, by amending Article IV by making its existence perpetual, and by amending Article V by increasing the Board of Directors to 15.

1. The name of the corporation is LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.

2. The following amendment to the Articles of Incorporation was adopted by the corporation on September 26, 1963.

Article II of the Articles of Incorporation is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

II

The purpose of this organization is educational, to-wit: To create, foster and maintain interest among citizens of Dallas County in the Genealogy and Local History Section of the Dallas Public Library.

To collect and preserve information relating to those pioneers who settled Dallas County and to the early history of this City and County.

To preserve church, cemetery and land records, testamentary documents, diaries and manuscripts, and other source material wherein are chronicled the achievements of those who laid in the wilderness the foundations of this great community.

To copy and index all such records, and to catalogue them so as to make this information most readily available to present and future generations.

To collect and make available through the Dallas Public Library the published records of other States, whence came the Texas pioneers.

To exchange ideas and collaborate in devising efficient methods for genealogical and historical research.

If at any time this corporation should be dissolved, no part of its funds or property shall be distributed to or among its members, directors, trustees, or officers, but after payment of all indebtedness of the corporation, its surplus funds and properties, if any, shall be used for the educational purposes above set out in such manner as its Board of Trustees, or other body then governing it may determine. And a trust may be established for such purposes. In default of such determination within three years of the dissolution, such funds and properties shall go to and be assigned, transferred and conveyed by the Board of Trustees and by the corporation's trustees after dissolution, as provided by the laws of the State of Texas, to the Local History and Genealogical Department of the Dallas Public Library, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, for the use and benefit of the Dallas Public Library.

Local History & Genealogical Society, Articles of Incorporation Amendment, 26 September 1963.

Article IV of the Articles of Incorporation is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

IV

The period of its duration is perpetual.

Article V of the Articles of Incorporation is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

V

The number of Directors constituting the Board of Directors of the corporation is 15 and the names and addresses of such Directors are as follows:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Dee Brown Walker	5918 Vanderbilt, Dallas, Texas
Mrs. Margaret Pratt	3529 McFarlin, Dallas, Texas
Mr. Victor B. Gilman	5332 Edmondson, Dallas, Texas
Mrs. W. Clytes Cullar	3359 Shelley, Dallas, Texas
Thomas S. Walker	6455 Stichter, Dallas, Texas
Carr P. Collins, Jr.	Fidelity Union Life Bldg., Dallas, Texas
John Plath Green	1603 Kirby Building, Dallas, Texas
Mrs. Margaret Scruggs Carruth	4524 Edmondson, Dallas, Texas
Hastings Harrison	4316 Potomac, Dallas, Texas
W. R. Conger	2434 Emmett, Dallas, Texas
Mrs. Frank G. Trau	710 W. Washington, Sherman, Texas
Mrs. Tom Cook	506 E. Melton, Longview, Texas
Mrs. Henry O. Jones, Sr.	4420 Cole, Dallas, Texas
Mrs. Linnie W. Barrett	3337 Blackburn, Dallas, Texas
Mrs. Lillian Schwertz	438 Mayrant, Dallas, Texas

3. The amendment was adopted in the following manner:

The amendment was adopted at a meeting of members held on September 26, 1963, at which a quorum was present, and the amendment received at least two-thirds of the votes which members present or represented by proxy at such meeting were entitled to cast.

DATED: September 26, 1963.

LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

By Dee Brown Walker  
Dee Brown Walker  
Its President

By W. Clytes Cullar  
W. Clytes Cullar  
Its Secretary

STATE OF TEXAS     X  
COUNTY OF DALLAS   X

I, Katherine Harries, a Notary Public, do hereby certify that on this 26th day of September, 1963, personally appeared before me Dee Brown Walker, being duly sworn, declared that he is President of the corporation executing the foregoing document, that he signed the foregoing document in the capacity therein set forth, and that the statements therein contained are true.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I Have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year before written.

Katherine Harries  
Notary Public, Dallas County, Texas.



Articles of Amendment to The  
Articles of Incorporation of

Local History & Genealogical Society  
Charter No. 129750

Filed in the Office of the  
Secretary of State of Texas  
This 25 day of Jan 19 77  
By J. J. Valdez  
Administrative Assistant

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 4.03 of the Texas  
Non-Profit Corporation Act, the undersigned Corporation  
adopts the following Articles of Amendment to its Articles  
of Incorporation which:

Changes the name of the Corporation.

1. The name of the Corporation is Local History and  
Genealogical Society.

2. The following Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation was adopted by the Corporation on 18 November 1976. At a meeting of the members at which a quorum was present, the amendment receiving an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members present. Article 1 of the Articles of Incorporation is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

"The name of this Corporation is Dallas Genealogical  
Society."

Dated 27 December 1976.

Local History & Genealogical Society

By H. D. Arant  
Its President

By Gene Ed B. Tomblath  
Its Secretary

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF DALLAS

I, Elizabeth D. Waller a Notary Public, do hereby certify that on this the Fourth day of January, 1977, personally appeared before me H.D. Arant being duly sworn, declared that he is President of the Corporation executing the foregoing document, that he signed the foregoing document in the capacity therein set forth, and that the statements therein contained are true.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year before written.

Elizabeth D. Waller  
Notary Public in and for  
Dallas County, Texas

My Commission expires: June 1977.

Local History & Genealogical Society, Articles of Incorporation Amendment, 27 December 1976, for the purpose of changing the name of the organization to Dallas Genealogical Society.

# Local History & Genealogical Society

COOPERATING WITH THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Volume I

FEBRUARY 21, 1955

Number 1

**OUR CREED:** "A people which takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants." — LORD Macaulay.

## FIRST PROJECT STARTED

The Committee on Special Projects of the Dallas Local History and Genealogy Society has announced that its first project will be the compilation of a bibliography of all books and pamphlets in the Dallas Public Library dealing with genealogical material.

The project in Dallas is patterned from the St. Louis, Mo., project which published its report in book form in 1953, a copy of which is in the Dallas Library, and which has been termed a most valuable help in simplifying research by historians and genealogists in the St. Louis Library.

The work in the Dallas Library was started a few days ago and at the present time work has been completed on North Carolina, Illinois, and the French Huguenots.

The appointment of the entire committee has not been completed. The committee is anxious to have volunteers from the membership of the society to give their services in compiling this bibliography. The committee is also anxious for the members to work on the states, counties, or cities in which they have a particular interest.

Volunteers should call Mrs. James P. Owen, chairman, at EM-5259 or FO-8-8966. Three or four hours a week given by several workers would be greatly appreciated.

It is the desire of the committee to finish the inventory of material in the Dallas Library as soon as possible in order that the bibliography, which will be published in book form similar to the one of the St. Louis Library, can be made available to all members of the society and to any others interested in genealogical research.

## Statement of Purpose

The purposes of this organization are:

To create, foster and maintain interest among citizens of Dallas County in the Genealogy and Local History Section of the Dallas Public Library.

To collect and preserve information relating to those pioneers who settled Dallas County and to the early history of this City and County.

To preserve church, cemetery and land records, testamentary documents, diaries and manuscripts, and other source materials wherein are chronicled the achievements of those who laid in the wilderness the foundations of this great community.

To copy and index all such records, and to catalogue them so as to make this information most readily available to present and future generations.

To collect and make available through the Dallas Public Library the published records of other States, whence came the Texas pioneers.

To exchange ideas and collaborate in devising efficient methods for genealogical and historical research.

## LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

Mrs. Margaret Pratt, head of the Local History and Genealogy Department of the Dallas Public Library, reports the addition of the following new books of interest to members of the Society:

Godfrey, Carlos E.: *The Commander-in-Chief's Guard*, Stevenson-Smith Co., Washington, D. C., 1904. Excellent book. Besides the history of the Guard, it contains information about the men — many times very detailed information — as to births, deaths, marriages, names of children with births and deaths and even the married names of daughters.

Green, Edwin L.: *A History of Richland Co., S. C., Vol. I, 1732-1805* (all published) R. L. Bryan Co., Columbia, S. C., 1932. Includes early settlers, land owners, Revolutionary men from that county (with places of birth), early Columbians, abstracts of wills relating to Richland Co. which are found in other counties, and officials.

Connecticut Historical Society: *Rolls of Connecticut Men in the French and Indian War, 1755-1762*, 2 Vols., Hartford, 1903-05 (Vols. IX and X of Collections of the Conn. Hist. Soc.). Lists the various companies, names of men, rank, dates of enlistments and discharges, with death dates in some cases. Very valuable.

Morgan, William M.: *Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church, Galveston, Texas, 1841-1953*. Galveston, 1953. Gives names of people active in its organization, officials through the years, lists of members and some genealogy.

Ransleben, Guido E.: *A Hundred Years of Comfort in Texas*. Pioneer German Families in Hill Co. Excellent genealogical material.

Blasig, Anne: *The Wends of Texas*. Pioneer German families.

DeGarmo, Mrs. Frank: *Pathfinders in Texas, 1836-1846*. Genealogy of early families in Nueces Co.

Storey, Willim M.: *The Family Storey*. George Storey and his descendants, 1725-1955. (Gift of Mr. Boude Storey.)

Clift, Glenn: *A History of Maysville and Mason County, Kentucky*.

Wright, Elizabeth Anne: *James Dyer — Descendants and Allied Families*. (Gift of the author.)

Sabine, W. H. W.: *Sabin (e) — The History of an Ancient English Surname*. (Gift of the author.)

McNitt, V. V.: *The MacNaughtan Saga*. 2 Vols. (Gift of the author.)

Carr, Nanon: *Clinton County, Missouri, Wills*.

Clift, Glenn: *Second Census of Kentucky (1800)*.

## MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING

More than thirty members attended the first monthly meeting of the new year, held at the Downtown YMCA at noon on January 17 and heard a report by President John Plath Green that interest in the work of the Society is spreading to suburban Dallas communities.

Members greeted with enthusiasm Mr. Green's report that he had received inquiries from persons interested in local history and genealogy in a number of the incorporated towns in Dallas County adjoining the City of Dallas, and the President was authorized to look into the possibility of organizing branches of the Society in such communities.

The temporary Finance Committee, headed by Mr. E. B. Comstock, presented a report recommending that annual dues for membership in the Society be set at \$5.00.

The recommendation was unanimously approved on motion of Mr. Dee Brown Walker, with the proviso that the fiscal year start on January 1.

Mr. Charles L. Noland presented a report on a proposed monthly bulletin to be published by the Society, accompanied by a suggested layout for the publication and estimates of printing costs, which were approved.

Mrs. J. A. Wellborn regretfully announced that it would be impossible for her to continue serving as Chairman of the Membership Committee and Mrs. George Carlisle was appointed to head this committee.

The meeting adjourned after setting the date of the next meeting for noon, Monday, February 21, at the Downtown YMCA.

It will be noted that a number of the volumes listed above were gifts to the library. Persons buying genealogical books with the intention of giving them to the library when they are through with the books, should notify Mrs. Pratt. This would preclude her ordering the same book, so that the money that would thus have been spent could be used to buy some other needed works.

### TEXAS HERITAGE

The Texas Historical Foundation, with George W. Hill as executive director, was chartered early last year. The establishment of the Foundation has been called "one of the most significant recent events in the preservation movement in this country."

This new group, set up with the advice and encouragement of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is designed as a co-ordinating agency within the State, much as the Trust itself is intended to serve the whole country. In the planning stage, the duties of the Texas Foundation were intended to be:

1. Designation and preservation of historic houses, sites and landmarks.
2. Preservation of important papers, documents and relics that record Texas life.
3. Publication and distribution of materials concerning Texas life and history.
4. School utilization of historical resources and participation of school children in reliving the days of Texas pioneers.
5. Publicizing the significance of historical parks.
6. Use of the Foundation by organizations, institutions, activities and individuals as a clearing house for information concerning Texas life.
7. Use of the facilities and leadership of the Foundation in the development of historical resources in every locality of Texas.

To begin to carry out the work of the Foundation a number of sub-committees have been appointed. Among the members are leading citizens studying museums, houses, sites, landmarks, arts and crafts (including plans for an Index of Early Texas Arts and Crafts), finances and programs.

Among other provisions, the charter of the Foundation states that "the corporation is not organized for propaganda purposes and will not attempt to influence legislation or participate in political activities."

### LIST OF MEMBERS

- Alvis, Mrs. W. O.  
4133 Stanhope — JU-9257  
Dallas, Texas
- Adams, Mrs. Chas. D.  
4005 Glenwick Lane  
Dallas, Texas
- Baker, Mrs. L. Warren  
4208 Brookview — DI-5098  
Dallas, Texas
- Barrett, Mrs. Linnie Wright  
3337 Blackburn — LA-4706  
Dallas, Texas
- Behrends, Mr. and Mrs. Earle D.  
4943 Victor — TA-2283  
Dallas 14, Texas
- Boon, Mrs. John D.  
3548 Haynie  
Dallas, Texas
- Brewer, Mrs. George A.  
4301 Edmondson — JU-6612  
Dallas 5, Texas
- Boren, Mrs. S. H.  
4400 McFarlin Blvd. — JU-0003  
Dallas, Texas
- Caruth, Margaret Scruggs  
3715 Turtle Creek Blvd.  
Dallas, Texas
- Carlisle, Mrs. George F.  
5544 Vickery Blvd.  
Dallas 6, Texas
- Castleman, Mrs. Ruth S.  
P. O. Box 8723 1  
115 Beckleywood — WI-4219  
Dallas, Texas
- Comstock, Mr. E. B.  
6218 Bryan Parkway — TE-6297  
Dallas, Texas
- Crow, Mrs. Edmon L.  
3225 Lovers Lane — JU-6830  
Dallas 5, Texas
- Foster, Mrs. Nell J.  
6001 Mercedes — TA-5933  
Dallas, Texas
- Garlington, Miss Marie  
2701 Fairmont Ave.  
Dallas 4, Texas
- Hayley, Mr. C. C.  
708 West 10th — WO-2826  
Dallas 8, Texas
- Harrell, Mrs. Mabel  
2154 Gaylord Dr. — EV-5833  
Dallas 27, Texas
- Harrison, Mr. Hastings  
4316 Potomac — LA-7264  
Dallas, Texas
- Haynes, Miss Eunice  
6106 Park Lane  
Dallas, Texas
- Jones, Mrs. Henry O.  
4343 Buena Vista — JU-5493  
Dallas, Texas
- King, Mr. Don  
3431 Binkley — LA-7462  
Apt. 200  
Dallas 5, Texas
- Miss Pearl Laughter  
(see Vernon)
- Laughter, Miss Vernon  
3621 Southwestern Blvd.  
Dallas, Texas
- Looney, Mrs. Charles  
4328 Lorraine — LA-4328  
Dallas 5, Texas
- Luttrell, Mrs. J. D.  
1515 Whitaker — YA-3329  
Dallas, Texas
- McCorkel, Miss Frances Mary
- McCorkel, Miss Nell E.  
4512 Rheims Place — LO-5439  
Dallas 4, Texas
- McCracken, Mrs. Joseph H., Jr.  
4401 Highland Drive — LA-9496  
Dallas 5, Texas
- McDonald, Mrs. John C.  
3725 Normandy — JU-1791  
Dallas 5, Texas
- Mitchell, Mrs. George  
Noland, Charles  
10155 Eastwood Drive — DA-7-2572  
Dallas, Texas
- Owens, Mrs. James P.  
3525 Bryn-Mawr — EM-5259  
Dallas, Texas
- Padgett, Mrs. Sullivan  
8539 San Fernando — FA-2842  
Dallas, Texas
- Peoples, Mrs. H. L.  
5440 Vanderbilt — TR-6166  
Dallas 6, Texas
- Peterson, Miss Hazel A.  
Seaboard Oil Company  
Continental Bldg. — RI-3583  
Dallas, Texas
- Pratt, Margaret  
Dallas Public Library  
Dallas, Texas
- Randlett, Mrs. Sam L.  
2004 Didsbury Circle, Apt. B  
Dallas, Texas
- Roggenbrod, Mrs. Roland  
5614 Lindell — TR-2933  
Dallas, Texas
- Schieffer, Mrs. E. C.  
815 E. Woodin Street — WO-3780  
Dallas, Texas
- Schwartz, Mrs. Lillian  
921 West 9th Street — WO-7583  
Dallas, Texas
- Syron, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. L.  
3502 Lindenwood — LA-5841  
Dallas, Texas
- Tips, Col. Chas. R.  
701 Forest Ave. — WI-1118  
Dallas, Texas
- Taylor, Mrs. Haden C.  
4314 Trellis Court — TA-1308  
Dallas 1, Texas
- Tipton, Tom L., Jr.  
717 Singleton Blvd. — RI-1094  
Dallas, Texas
- Thomas, Mrs. Cullen F.  
6601 Hunters Glen Road — LA-5822  
Dallas 5, Texas
- Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Dee Brown  
904 Southland Life Bldg. — RI-3574  
Dallas, Texas
- Walter, Miss Gladys D.  
4437 Westway — JU-8280  
Dallas 4, Texas
- Walter, Miss Mary Ethel  
4437 Westway — JU-8280  
Dallas 4, Texas
- Wall, R. P.  
4032 Hanover  
Dallas, Texas
- Waters, Miss Bess  
3920 Worth — TE-3060  
Dallas 1, Texas
- Wellborn, Mrs. J. A.  
5922 Gaston Ave. — TA-9534
- Wills, Miss Elsie Beattie  
4425 Westside — LO-6211  
Dallas, Texas
- Van Zandt, Mrs. John H.  
4416 Bryan — TE-5150  
Dallas, Texas

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE DOWNTOWN YMCA  
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21 . . . ANYONE INTERESTED IS INVITED**

HISTORY OF THE DALLAS LOCAL HISTORY AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

by

Mrs. Lillian Schwertz, Director  
Local History and Genealogical Society

As stated in its Charter, The Dallas Local History and Genealogical Society was organized in 1955 for the educational purpose of creating, fostering and maintaining interest among citizens of Dallas County in the Genealogy and Local History section of the Dallas Public Library; collecting and preserving information relating to early pioneers and history of our state and nation and to exchange ideas and collaborate in devising efficient methods for genealogical and historical research.

John Plath Green, Dallas attorney, was elected as the Society's first President with the following Board members: Charles L. Syron, Jane Alvis, Anna Walker; Charles L. Noland, Gladys Birt, Hazel Peterson, Margaret S. Carruth and Willie Carlisle.

Mr. Green served as President until 1961 when he was succeeded by Carr P. Collins, Jr. After serving one term Mr. Collins was succeeded in 1962 by Tom Walker.

The dynamic leadership and interest of these three Presidents contributed much to the growth of the Society. Credit, too, must be given to the untiring effort and work of the various Board members and officers of the Society as well as to the membership at large. Attendance at the monthly luncheon or evening meetings has proven the memberships interest.

Through the untiring efforts of the Society membership, many documents, records, books and microfilm records have been donated or purchased through the Margaret B. Pratt fund and placed in the Genealogy and Local History section of the Dallas Public Library.

The Society has co-sponsored with the Junior League of Dallas, a course for High School students interested in genealogy. Members of the Society give of their time and talent to this worthwhile project.

THE BULLETIN, the official publication of the Society, under the capable editorship of John Thornton and his staff, has been a great contribution to genealogists throughout the country. At the present time the Bulletin is sent to practically every large library in the United States.

The annual Genealogical Workshop conducted by the Society each Spring at the Downtown Public Library, has done much to stimulate and educate the public on the importance of preserving family, county, state and national records. Nationally known speakers have highlighted the Workshops.

The sharing of experiences and personal records; the socialbleness and the friendliness of the members; the dedicated efforts of the membership in fulfilling the purposes of the Society have been the contributing forces in making the Dallas Local History and Genealogical Society a worthwhile organization.

Reproduced from *Local History & Genealogical Society Quarterly*, June 1963, Volume IX, Number 2.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE LOCAL HISTORY  
AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, DALLAS, TEXAS

26 October 1954: 22 People met at the downtown YMCA and organized what is today the "Local History and Genealogical Society." John Plath Green was elected to head the new organization. Among others present that day who are still active in the Society are Mrs. Margaret Pratt, Hastings Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Dee Brown Walker, and Mr. Henry O. Jones.

22 November 1954: At the second meeting a name was selected for the new organization -- "Local History and Genealogy Society Cooperating with the Dallas Public Library."

21 February 1955: The first program was presented by Mrs. Margaret Scruggs Caruth and John Plath Green. It was a "How To" session on genealogy.

21 February 1955: This is the date of the first publication of the Society which was a single page printed on both sides.

26 May 1955: Miss Hazel Peterson was named Chairman of the Monthly Publication Committee. It is presumed that she handled the first publication dated some months sooner, but the records are not clear.

July 1955: The new library was opened.

22, 29 October and

5, 12 November 1955: The first "Clinic" was held, conducted by Mrs. Caruth, John Plath Green, and Mrs. Pratt.

30 November 1955: The first night meeting was held at the library. At this meeting Judge Dee Brown Walker presented a charter for the "Local History and Genealogical Society, a Non-Profit Corporation domiciled in Texas." It is not clear from the records but by this time the name of the Society had been changed and bylaws adopted.

5 January 1956: The first board meeting was held at the Dallas Public Library at which John Plath Green was elected President for the year 1956. Regular board meetings were established to meet the first Thursday of each month at the Library and it was decided at this meeting that the Society publication would not be published each month but on an irregular basis.

26 June 1956: At the regular meeting it was decided that meetings should be held alternately at Noon at the YMCA and at night at the Library.

23 February 1957: A bank account was established. It is not clear from the records how the money was previously handled.

6 May 1957: The second "Clinic" was held.

May 1957: The first Quarterly with the present format was published. It was labeled Volume III, No. I, and is published quarterly - March, June, September, and December of each year.

May 1958: The third "Work Shop" was held. From that year forward the "Work Shop" has been held annually in May on a regular basis

9 May, 1969: The above history was given at our very successful Fifteenth (15) Annual Workshop, by Banks McLaurin, Jr.

**DGS Dallas Genealogical Society** in cooperation with the Dallas Public Library  
Box 12648, Dallas, Texas 75225

Mrs. R. A. Pointer (Gladys)  
V.P., Communications  
231-8652

October, 1978

Issue No. 20

NEWSLETTER

HONOR: The Dallas Genealogical Society was awarded the Texas Heritage Award for Research at the Heritage Conference in Austin on September 16. Our past President, Helen Lu, represented the Society and received the award. Attending the luncheon in Austin with Mrs. Lu were Adrienne Jamieson, Alene McCrary, Judy Ceccucci, Renee Smith, and Nola Van Pierce. This is one of 3 awards the Texas Heritage Council initiated this year to recognize significant preservation achievement made by organizations in the state. DGS received the award based upon the tremendous research efforts conducted last year by Helen Lu and a number of DGS members which resulted in three books (Marriages, Dallas Co.-1846-1877; Index to Probate-1846-1900; Ancestors of DGS Members, and in the production of 35 rolls of microfilm of original probate packets. The bronze plaque is on display in the library.

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, October 1978, Issue 20.

**DGS Dallas Genealogical Society** in cooperation with the Dallas Public Library  
Box 12648, Dallas, Texas 75225

June, 1979  
Issue #27

Editor (231-8652)  
Mrs. R. A. Pointer (Gladys)

NEWSLETTER

President (341-6507)  
Mrs. R. G. Champ (Minnie)

GOALS FOR DALLAS: DGS has been notified that "because (our) purposes and activities are considered appropriate to the goal, (our) organization is listed as a participating agency for the Design of the City Goal 11." That Goal reads: "Develop strategies to deal with the feasible preservation & use of historically significant buildings & areas." We are listed on page 63 of the book printed in March this year, ACHIEVING THE GOALS FOR DALLAS, 1978-1983.

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, June 1979, Issue 27.



## DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

### formerly LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

(Cooperating With The Dallas Public Library)

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

Mrs. Margaret Pratt  
Mrs. Lillian Schwertz  
Mrs. W. O. Alvis  
Mrs. Mabel Harrell  
Mr. Charles L. Syron  
Mrs. Charles I. Syron  
Mrs. Charles Looney  
Mrs. Hazel Peterson  
Charles Holand  
Don King  
Mr. Tom Tipton  
Judge Dee B. Walker  
Mrs. Dee B. Walker  
Mr. C. C. Hayley  
Mrs. J. O. Luttrell  
Mrs. Henry O. Jones  
Mrs. Roland Roggenbrod  
Mrs. Charles P. Adams  
Mrs. George Carlisle  
Mr. Hastings Harrison  
Mr. E. B. Comstock  
Mr. John Plath Green

**NOVEMBER 22, 1954:**  
Mrs. John D. Boon  
Mrs. C. Leslie Birt  
Miss Vernon Laughter  
Mrs. Margaret Scruggs Carruth  
Miss Eunice Haynes

**CHARTER MEMBERS WHO ARE MEMBERS NOW**

MARGARET BARRET PRATT  
JOHN PLATH GREEN  
HASTINGS HARRISON  
MARGARET SCRUGGS CARRUTH  
ANNA WALKER  
DEE BROWN WALKER  
LILLIAN SCHWERTZ  
MARY ETHEL WALTER  
VERNON LAUGHTER

**CHARTER MEMBERS WHO ARE MEMBERS NOW**

**MARGARET SCRUGGS CARRUTH**

Remembers the major aim of the Organization was not only to increase the books in the Genealogy Section of DPL, but also to increase the scope of their coverage. Was an "uphill battle", but people were encouraged to give in memorial form and otherwise, & many members & non-members were generous. Remembers meeting in homes, and enjoyed "getting together at the 'Y'" (across street from Baptist Church) for lunch and monthly meetings, but the efforts of the group were entirely directed toward their goals. Mrs. Carruth keeps in touch with present activities, has held office, been very active & supported all the early endeavors. Was the first scheduled speaker, speaking on "Methods" at the third meeting.

**MARGARET B. PRATT**

A quarter of a century ago, when she was Head of the Texas History & Genealogy Department of DPL, the story goes that a young man, Charles Holand, had a genealogy problem she thought could be answered best through a group. About this time, John Plath Green was becoming aware of the need for a group to help the Library's Gen. Section & individual genealogists. He claims Mrs. Pratt "egged me on" and was in on "every thing" to do with the organization of the Society. Early members have only high praise for her guidance, and admiration for her knowledge as a "walking encyclopedia". All agree that Mrs. Pratt was "the inspiration" and indispensable to this Organization's beginnings.

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Our Founder President (1954-1961). The idea of organizing a society that would work in cooperation with DPL was to a large extent his idea. He is credited with being the "spark plug" & "leading spirit". A attorney, he became interested in genealogy about 1950. & saw the Genealogy Section as a "step-child" department then. When he called a meeting of a handful of interested people--with Mrs. Pratt's support-- one of his goals was to help improve that status. These first members have seen a complete change in that Library Department. Mr. Green was on the Library Board when Mrs. Bradshaw was appointed. Has published three family histories & a History of Deed Records of Rutherford County, N.C. Two years ago, he gave his personal library (some out-of-print books & all invaluable) to the Library.

**LILLIAN SCHWERTZ**

Would come to the Library from her work at City Hall. Was our first Program Chairman, and has lectured, written, and served on the Board for the Society. Has traveled extensively and is still traveling in connection with her research. Has a separate room set aside for the results of her searches. Has enough material for 25 books, and has gathered notes on related lines, all of which she graciously shares.

**HASTINGS HARRISON**

Remembers the early group as being "tremendous" and "very closely knit". Has been on our Board and Vice President, but because he was so heavily involved with the SMU Arts Center at the time, he felt could not take the Presidency. He did, however, also contribute much as Mr. Green's "right hand man". Dr. Harrison has published two books: Martin Dial, and Daniel B. Harrison (and related families).

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Mrs. Walker was our first Secretary & Judge Walker was President two terms. He remembers when Mrs. Pratt first approached him about the idea of an organization. When the "new" Library was being built & the books were temporarily on the second floor of Union Terminal, Mrs. Pratt asked him if he knew John Plath Green & explained the idea. From there, these three "kinda got the thing going". Not long before this (spring, 1954), he had spent his first dollar on genealogy. He did DGS taxes for years, and is still handling all our legal work (did the Charter, name change, etc.), and is available for consultation. As Mr. Green says, "He is a real good friend of the Society's."

**VERNON LAUGHTER**

This alert 94 year old member says, "We had interesting meetings, and through that interest (and perseverance), I have worked until I have nine Revolutionary ancestors cleared through DAR." Her sister, Pearl, was a Charter Member, passed on in 1969. When they traveled to research, they found people very helpful. Stayed with many distant relatives who didn't know them from "Adam's house cat". Miss Laughter wrote, lectured for us, & held office. Still gives good advice.

**MARY ETHEL WALTER**

Says she was intensely interested when the group started, and is now well pleased that she has been able to clear about 20 family lines. Miss Walter was active in writing, and serving on the Board and Committees. Her sister, Gladys, was also a Charter Member.

THANK YOU, CHARTER MEMBERS

**\*\* 1954 BEGINNINGS \*\***

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1954**, the above people met at the Downtown YMCA for the purpose of organizing an association committed to the PURPOSE OF FOSTERING THE COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH DPL. Arbitrarily calling it "Dallas Association of Genealogy and Local History", Mr. Green stated that the association would OPERATE AS A CLEARING HOUSE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF GENERAL INFORMATION AMONG ITS MEMBERS, AND TO STUDY AND MAKE AVAILABLE IMPROVED METHODS OF RESEARCH, TO LOCATE ADDITIONAL SOURCE MATERIALS, AND TO STUDY METHODS OF COMPILING GENEALOGICAL DATA.

1. Motion unanimously carried that THE ORGANIZATION, SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED BY MR. GREEN, BE CREATED AND ORGANIZED.
2. First project was to inventory the bookshelves of DPL with plans to print the list. The project was enlarged to include inventories of private libraries of those persons who would be willing to make such libraries available, at times, to members.
3. Members were requested not to discuss with any of the members at any meeting the personal exploits of any of his own ancestors.
4. President was authorized to appoint Membership, Special Project, Administrative & Program Committees, with Chairmen serving as Executive Com.
5. Mr. Green announced he had sent notices to persons with possible interest & urged others to contact interested friends.
6. Mrs. Pratt "expressed herself as wholly in accord" with the need of such an organization & gave her "blessing".

**1954 MEETING MINUTES:** (Is referred to as "the first meeting", but called "the second meeting" in the Minutes Record.)

At 12 noon, November 22, 1954, the group again met at the YMCA, 605 North Ervay. Five new members came.

1. Was agreed that name should be "LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY SOCIETY, COOPERATING WITH DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY."
2. Rather than ask for money for books, was agreed that list of needed books be given to local people with suggestion they donate to DPL.
3. Mr. C. C. Hayley was elected to the office of Treasurer.
4. Mr. Don King, Miss Vernon Laughter, Mrs. John D. Boon were appointed to Projects Com. (Purpose: suggest projects; such as, N.C. book inventory)
5. Committee appointed to investigate amount of dues to charge: Comstock, Wellborn, Alvis, Holand, and Hayley.
6. President appointed Mrs. J. A. Wellborn as Membership Chairman, and Mrs. Alvis as Telephone Committee Chairman.

## CHARTER MEMBERS WHO ARE MEMBERS NOW (25TH ANNIVERSARY)

*Transcribed by Janet Khashab, AG®*

The following is a transcription from “25th Anniversary Dallas Genealogical Society 1954–1979,” *Dallas Genealogical Society Newsletter*, November 1979, Issue 30 (see previous page).

### MARGARET SCRUGGS CARRUTH

Remembers the major aim of the Organization was not only to increase the books in the Genealogy Section of DPL, but also to increase the scope of their coverage. Was an “uphill battle”, but people were encouraged to give in memorial form and otherwise, & many members & non-members were generous. Remembers meeting in homes, and enjoyed “getting together at the “Y” (across street from Baptist Church) for lunch and monthly meetings, but the efforts of the group were entirely directed toward their goals. Mrs. Carruth keeps in touch with present activities, has held office, been very active & supported all the early endeavors. Was the first scheduled speaker, speaking on “Methods” at the third meeting.

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#### THANK YOU, CHARTER MEMBERS

**SHAKING YOUR FAMILY TREE, A Basic Guide to Tracing Your Family's Genealogy** by Dr. Ralph Crandall. Pages 56-57, **Major Genealogical Libraries**, states: "Among thousands of public libraries and historical and genealogical societies in the United States, thirteen have collections that rank them far above the rest".

New England Historic Genealogical Society, MA.  
New York Public Library, NY  
New York Genealogical and Biographical Library, NY  
Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.  
Library, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, D.C.  
Western Reserve Historical Society, OH  
Burton Collection, Detroit Public Library, MI  
Public Library of Fort Wayne & Allen County, IL  
Newberry Library, IL  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin, WI.  
**DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY, TX.**  
The Genealogical Society Library, Salt Lake City, UT  
Los Angeles Public, CA

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**DGS Dallas Genealogical Society** in cooperation with the Dallas Public Library  
Box 12648, Dallas, Texas 75225

October 1986  
Issue 90

**NEWSLETTER**

President:  
Norma Cansler 348-4264

Newsletter:  
Joyce Martin Murray 691-0226

**DGS AT STATE FAIR!**

A trip to Texas State Fair this year is a special event, and one of the most special things to see is the exhibit by the Dallas Genealogical Society in the Hall of State Museum. There were about 50 entries in the Genealogical Competition, and the winners in the various categories will be on display, along with family trees of famous Texans. Some of our members have worked very hard on this exhibit, and they say the entries were very good! The Hall of State Museum will serve as the Texas Pavilion and will house 15 exhibits celebrating 150 years of Texas Independence, including (along with DGS exhibit) "Hispanic Settlement in Texas: The First 150 Years" (General Land Office), "A Corner Forever Texas" (Texas History Collection, Austin), The Texas Declaration of Independence, Travis' letter from the Alamo.

(The very special showing of the Magna Carta and the United States Declaration of Independence are also in the Hall of State.)

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, October 1986, Issue 90.



### A Conversation with Lloyd Bockstruck

**Lloyd:** The 1991-1992 appropriation for the section was \$19,996.32. The previous budget year the city had run out of money and they fed the budget money back in to the general fund. We had not spent \$3,000.00 for the previous year. They said we could carry it over, so we did. That means we started the year with \$24,048.75

**Margret:** Was that on January 1?

**Lloyd:** No, that was October 1. October through September is our budget. So, on October 1 we had \$23,644. We had no one who knew how to place orders on the computer because the clerk's position was empty, and I did not know how to do it. Then Carolyn [Combs] came and she started learning, but the end result was that we placed no orders because we didn't have anyone who knew how to do it. Then that gets down to the emergency point where they started freezing [salaries], which was in January. So, in January we still had not spent any money, and it showed that our balance was \$25,000. Then it went down to \$11,000.

**Margret:** That was just this past month in February?

**Lloyd:** Yes. So, how it goes, that I do not know. Then, it shows us with a balance of \$3,576. Right now, we have not spent anything. What I can't tell, of the \$3,576 they have left with us, exactly what of that actually constitutes peoples's gifts. Because in February we received \$576 in gifts, so that means of that \$3,000 I can't figure out how much of that is already gifts. I suspect that it may all be gift money. There may not be any of the 20-some thousand dollars from the city. It appears that we have no money. All the money we have is gift money, which is earmarked for something special.

**Margret:** Gift money is earmarked for something special?

**Lloyd:** Most people give the gift money with something stipulated. If it is not for a specific book, then they will say on a specific subject, and we have chosen it. What I can't tell from the budget is if all those gifts that

we have chosen are somewhere in the computer system but haven't gotten down to the point to where they have charged them against this figure when they go out of the city to be ordered. I think that that is what this \$3,000 is.

**Margret:** So in effect you wind up with zero budget money from the Dallas City Budget?

**Lloyd:** Yes, and they took away between \$3000 and \$4000 from last years budget, plus all of this years. So, it's the worst it has ever been in the history of the Dallas Public Library.

**Margret:** Have other departments had their entire budgets just deleted?

**Lloyd:** Yes, some of them. If you have money from an endowment, like the Kahn family gave a million-some dollars to the library for an endowment for the humanities, so Humanities still has left \$48,000 off of interest of that fund this year, I'm told. If you have an endowed collection, you have money, but if you have city, you have nothing. The way it appears to me.

**Margret:** Recently, the American Library Association made the observation that it is during bad times that libraries become even busier. These are times when people are not buying books. They go to the library to check the book out. This is the time that we are having our worst budget problems, and this is the time that the Genealogy Section winds up with no money except gift money.

**Lloyd:** can you give us your thoughts on the problem with space, moving books, the decision regarding what books should be moved, and what you think is going to be the future regarding space?

**Lloyd:** Heather [Williams] is willing, but is certainly not on the record as saying, that we can have more space. Certainly the area in front of genealogy is the most logical place to advance if we advance; but now that there is no money in the city budget — every time you move a piece of furniture you have to have an okay for that so there is not even any money to pay someone to move a piece of furniture. Until the city gets to be financially well, even though they say we can move, we aren't going to be able to move. So, that doesn't look hopeful.

If and when there is money and we can move or do any architectural modifications, such as relocating the glass wall out to the next pillar, which would be increasing the floor space by 25%, that, in and of itself, 25% increase most pressingly would be filled with equipment. We only have one MBDB terminal for the public. That ought not be. We ought to have at least two or three.

**Margret:** What is an MBDB terminal?

**Lloyd:** The computer terminals, so that you can check and see what books we have. We need that expanded. We have one computer that will now do cassette disks. We asked for two. That is going to become the thing of the future, because Automated Archives is planning to release one cassette disk of genealogy data per week. They have

*[“Conversation” continued on next page]*



[*“Conversation” continued from page 39*]

already started. They have done the New England census, Social Security Death Indexes, nationwide marriage indexes; and we can't buy any of those. That means we've got to have furniture to hold them. There is already a severe shortage of places to sit. The bottom line is, if floor space is ever increased it is going to have to go to people places.

There is no place for materials out there. Because the computer does not reflect any of the microforms, if they are out of sight, they are out of use. You don't even know they exist and you wouldn't even ask for them. So, we've got to keep out on the floor the microfilm and the microfiche, cause even then you won't know what you've got necessarily, but you could stumble on to it faster. Since the books are cataloged, that is the only format that we can retire. We are at capacity. There is no space to add any more out there, so everything that is added now means that something has to go into storage [stacks].

We started to select, and I polled the staff on what it is that they thought should go into storage and what should stay out there [on the floor]. You needed a sizable chunk. The debate falls into three categories. One, you could do the town and county histories. Two, you could do the vital statistics, raw data. Three, you could do the family histories. The family histories did not occupy that much space. If we took those, we would have to take something else as a number. The Tennessee State Library, as an example, has their family histories out on the shelf, and everything else is in the back. You have to call for it. The family histories are almost all gifts — we don't buy those. So, I decided if you gave it, it might be more worthwhile to have it out on the shelf. I chose what was easiest to find on the part of the user. If you start doing genealogy, you soon learn what a book of marriages is, or a book of wills, or a book of cemeteries; and you know what kind of information that is.

If there is a history of doctors of Cumberland County, Illinois, or a history of printing of Washington County, Arkansas, or a history of the Episcopal churches in Stamford, Connecticut, those are not likely to be picked out by you as things to go for. You would go for marriage, cemeteries, wills. Those are very easily found in the card catalog, or on the computer. They are not too tricky to locate. so, since they can be identified quickly, and you learn very soon what they are and to anticipate them, that is what we retired — in the 929.3.

The next thing that will have to go will be the town and county histories. That again, is fairly identifiable. I will at the very last take military records. That will be the last thing to go back there [stacks].

We are out of room; and soon it is going to be just like Fort Wayne [Genealogy Section of the Allen County, Indiana, Public Library], except there is no support staff. In Fort Wayne, everything except the census indexes, is in the stacks. You call for every book you want.

That is going to be our fate, since the only space we

have is storage. There is no more space in this building. You can't shift us to another floor. You can't move us. The spaces that are there are not comparable to this. When we were vacant on the second floor — and they had not decided what to do with the Children's Section — they were trying to give it life again, Lea [Markoff] and I went down and walked it off. Already the second floor had less space than we had up here to start with. So, there isn't a solution to move us anywhere, because there's no place that's even as big as what we have.

It gets worse. It [the section] will become even more and more of a reading room, although if we have no money to buy books, it's going to fall way behind. But if we added them at the rate we were adding them in the last twenty years, then there is going to be a whole lot of it in the stacks.

What we left out of 929.3 was anything that was statewide. So, if there is an index to Tennessee marriages, or an index to Virginia wills, or if it is statewide, or a multiple county kind of thing, we left those out. If it is a solitary county, and is a local kind of record, we retired those.

**Margret:** The staff brings them out?

**Lloyd:** Yes. We've got to get them, and it could work very well if had enough pages, which is what Fort Wayne has. They have an entire army of pages, and you don't wait. Newberry Library in Chicago, St. Louis Public Library, and Illinois State Library were all that way when I was a kid and started doing genealogy. There weren't any libraries where I could walk the aisles. You had to ask for all of them. You would wait from five to 25 minutes for each set of requests. At the Newberry, you could not ask for more than five books. They put a limit on how many you could ask for in any hour, which I didn't think was quite equitable. We haven't imposed any limits, and I don't see why we should. It's not the best of both worlds and not what I'd like, but there is no other way to do it. Everything that's here is still available to the public, and we will get it. For someone to say, "I've given a book, and it cannot be seen," is simply not true.

**Margret:** I suppose that those of us who have been patrons of the Dallas Genealogy Section have been a little spoiled, because we have been able to have free run of the stacks for many years. It's going to be a little hard for us to realize that without additional space and without a lot of additional space, not just the space in front of the glass walls, more and more material will have to be retired to the stacks.

Lloyd, would you say that the Genealogy Section could not fill a whole branch library?

**Lloyd:** We are bigger than most of our branches already. To put us in a branch would only make it worse. I've been thinking along that line. I've already considered and calculated, and I got the square footage; we are bigger than most of the branches already. To put us into a branch would only compound and accentuate. It would

[*“Conversation” continued on next page*]



[“Conversation” continued from page 40]

seem that it might release it, but you would need to double or triple the size of our biggest branch.

**Margret:** Square footage?

**Lloyd:** Yes. When you look at the Houston Public Library’s Genealogy Branch [Clayton Library], it is an entire city block long, two stories tall; and they don’t have as many books as we have. It’s been two years since I’ve been in it. When I was there, there was no place for them to grow. Their shelves were full. And there was no storage space, except for their old house.

**Margret:** You still have storage space?

**Lloyd:** Yes, but if we grew in the next decade like we grew in the last decade, then even all the storage space will be encumbered. If we experience that kind of growth, I don’t know how they are going to solve it. There is really no solution.

**Margret:** If a generous genealogist with a lot of money came forth and said, “I will build you a building to house the genealogy library,” would the city support that? Perhaps there is an unused office building somewhere that would meet genealogies needs.

**Lloyd:** Theoretically, in a bright future, I dream about it. Here in our economic times, with Texas’s loss of real wealth, I would be utterly surprised. I have been here twenty years and part of that time I was with Mrs. Boykin, and I certainly got to talk to Mrs. Pratt. I’ve seen all of them who have gone along and, in the existence of the Genealogy Section, you can see what has been given to it. With the exception of the gift from Mrs. Harry Joseph Morris, there has never been a gift of money anywhere near as important and valuable. When you look at them from purely an economic perspective, it’s never been here. Of course, that’s not to say that we can’t have one. Houston had it.

**Margret:** Someone who is a genealogist at heart could step forward and say, “This is what I would like to do for the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library.”

**Lloyd:** It depends on several things. If the city had property available it could give for the location for said place, and it was in an area where people were receptive to having it, it is possible. It is still a dream.

**Margret:** What would you like to say to the membership of the Society in regard to what your concerns are right now?

**Lloyd:** I feel like a musician that I heard interviewed years ago. The person said, “When I don’t practice every day, I notice it. When I don’t practice every week, my critics notice it. When I don’t practice every month, the audience notices it.”

Given the large number of items that are published and released annually, there is no way this can maintain itself if this happens again next year with no buys. You need a minimum of \$20,000 a year — \$40,000 a year to buy new material is not so far fetched.

This is the first time in the history of the Dallas Public Library that the City of Dallas spent no money to buy the

census. The very first time.

**Margret:** The 1920 census was bought through donations?

**Lloyd:** Entirely. There was not one cent of tax money spent on that. That is the first time in the 90-some year history of this institution that has ever happened. So, when you look at it in context, it’s in a terrible state. There is no reason to be here if you don’t sustain it. It just gets worse.

**Margret:** Is the interest in genealogy growing?

**Lloyd:** Yes. You begin and you find things. Twenty years ago when I came, I can remember Rene Smith looking for Larkin Jackson. You had to read the entire state, every census line by line, page by page. There were no census indexes, other than 1790. The records weren’t there in many cases; or if they were, they were unindexed. Now you can find them.

**Margret:** Even if we have to ask that the books be brought out from the stacks?

**Lloyd:** Yes. It’s a very poor approach, but it’s not fatal. It may not be instantaneous gratification.

**Margret:** Well, we do like that.

**Lloyd:** Of the people who asked me for books this morning, I don’t think anyone waited more than five minutes. It’s not be best of both worlds. I’m the first to acknowledge that.

Of the large libraries — and we’ve gotten to that size with more than 60,000 volumes in the Genealogy Section — you’ve got Los Angeles Public, which has stacks; St. Louis Public, which has stacks; Wisconsin State Historical, which has stacks; New York Public, which has stacks; New England Historical and Genealogical, which has stacks, but are open to the public so that you can go in and get your own books; Newberry Library of Chicago, which has closed stacks; Fort Wayne, Indiana Library, which has closed stacks. When you reach 50,000 volumes, and you canvas the country, it is not peculiar to Dallas. Once you get that big there is no other way to run it.

**Margret:** Thank you for the conversation, Lloyd. Hopefully this will give the membership some idea of what you are up against and the seriousness of the budget problem.

**Lloyd:** When I went to library school, and we studied theoretical hard times, you always looked to the New York Public Library as the model. First you cut hours, then you cut services. The very last thing you stopped was acquiring the information. In many fields, if you do not buy it when it comes out, it will never be there for you to have again. New York Public has always prided itself on getting as much of the information as possible and then it will always be there if an when they can open their doors again. Here, we are now buying no books to give the information.



## DGS Receives DCHC Appreciation Award

by Sammie Townsend Lee

The Dallas County Historical Commission (DCHC) presented the Dallas Genealogical Society with an Appreciation Award at the 1992 DCHC Awards Luncheon, which was held October 15, 1992, at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas. The award was presented in recognition of the Society's 37-year history of commitment to genealogy, the community, and preservation of Dallas County records through DGS special projects involving recording, microfilming, abstracting, and publishing these records. Special mention was made of the Society's cemetery project. Helen Mason Lu accepted the award for DGS.



HISTORIC LANDMARK "OLD RED" COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1890-92, DALLAS, TEXAS

Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck received a DCHC Professional Award in recognition of his twenty years of service to the Dallas Public Library and his contributions in the profession of genealogy. Carol Roark, archivist for the Dallas Public Library, received a Commendation Award. Other awards were presented, including the Commission's highest award, the John Neely Bryan Award, which was presented to Dr. Mamie McKnight. The awards were presented by Channel 8 reporter Bob Phillips.

In addition to the awards, the focus of the luncheon was on the restoration of the interior of the Old Red Courthouse and the Commission's plans for a Museum of Dallas County History to be placed on the first floor of the restored courthouse. A slide presentation displayed the work done thus far on the courthouse. A cake presentation was made in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the erection of Old Red.

DGS members attending the luncheon were Lloyd Bockstruck, Barbara Baylis, Bernie Coffey, Rubyann Darnell, Chan Edmondson, Adrienne Jamieson, Sammie Lee, Helen Lu, Harry Stevenson, Markaleeta Stevenson, and Heather Williams.

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## TSGS Writing Awards Won by DGS Members

DGS member Brenda Burns Kellow of Richardson, Texas, was the recipient of the top writing award presented by the Texas State Genealogical Society in their 1992 Writing Competition. The awards were presented at the banquet of the annual TSGS conference in Austin, Texas, on 6 November 1992.

Brenda was awarded a \$300 check for Best Writing Entry for her family history on her ancestor, Charles C. Stibbens. Stibbens was a soldier of the Battle of San Jacinto and a citizen of the Republic of Texas. In addition to the top award, the book also won a first place certificate in the category of a book on family history. A copy of Brenda's book, now in its second printing, has been placed in the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library.

Another first-place award recipient was DGS past president Chan Edmondson. Volume 12 of Chan's project, *Revolutionary War Period Bible, Family, Marriage Records*, received a first place award in the category for a reference book. The genealogy section also owns this very helpful collection. Chan's ongoing project lists Bible records

and other records showing family connections located in the *Selected Records From Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files*.

In this same category, Nova Lemons book, *Pioneers of Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory*, received the second place award. Nova's book received a DGS writing award last March in the category of a book on local history or genealogy. The book is a part of the permanent collection of the Genealogy Section.

Barbara B. Wylie was awarded a second place certificate for her family publication, *The Brixey Bulletin*. Copies of the newsletter are located in the Genealogy Section's vertical files.

Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck and six other Texas newspaper genealogy columnists were awarded special distinguished merit awards by TSGS president Marynell Bryant for their contributions to genealogy.

Congratulations to these DGS members and to all the other winners and recipients in the TSGS awards.

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, March–April 1993, Volume 17, Number 2.

## An Important Announcement: The Establishment of the Capital Expansion Project

The extraordinary growth of interest in genealogy over the past decade has been good news for the Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS) and for the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library. Between 1984 and 1992, membership in DGS doubled; total members for 1993 may well reach 1,000. Increasing numbers of researchers, both members and nonmembers, are taking advantage of DGS educational opportunities, including our Spring Seminar, Summer Lecture Series, and Fall Symposium. Fortunately, during a time of City budget cutbacks and freezes, this growth has allowed the Society to maintain support for materials acquisition through its annual gift to the Genealogy Section. Ours is a success story that any organization might envy. But success almost always arrives in the company of new challenges and problems. In our case, the problem has come in the form of overcrowding. While patron usage and materials acquisition have increased dramatically, the floor space allotted to Genealogy has not been expanded since the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library was completed in 1981. At a time when DGS is raising more money than ever before for the purchase of materials, the Genealogy Section is finding it more and more difficult to properly store and utilize them.

Those of you who have visited the Genealogy Section during the past year are acutely aware of the critical need for additional space and equipment. In better times, we might have been able to petition the City of Dallas to allocate funds for expansion. Sadly, given current demands on the Dallas City Budget, this prospect is seven shades darker than dim.

Last fall, the DGS Executive Board and its committees began to study the problem and to search for possible solutions. As a result of this work, the 1992–1993 Executive Board has voted to fund a Capital Expansion Project benefitting the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library. The goal of the project is to supply construction funds for expansion of the Section's space, as well as monies for the purchase of additional furniture and equipment. The recently created Capital Expansion Committee has been asked to coordinate this project and to make recommendations to the Board regarding space requirements, legal and tax constraints, fund-raising, and other procedures. The library administration has expressed its enthusiasm for the project and has been enormously cooperative in the planning process. But please realize that the most important people on the DGS Capital Expansion Project team are the members of the Society. Your enthusiastic support and participation will be crucial to the success of this project. Fund-raising will not officially begin until September. In the meantime, there's much work to do. We are currently working with the library administration on a requirements program to define the needs of the Genealogy Section. Your opinions and suggestions are critical to this work. Therefore, your first assignment is as follows:

If you did not participate in the survey at the DGS Spring Seminar on 27 March 1993, please complete the enclosed **Usage Survey Form**. (Your first donation to the project will be the 29¢ stamp you use to return the completed survey form to the committee—simply fold the form so that the address on the back of the form shows, stamp, and drop in a mailbox.)

Your second assignment is to begin thinking. Contributions to this project need not be limited to dollars. The Committee wants to hear your ideas and your suggestions. Send them in as they come to you. Every suggestion will be considered.

Additional assignments, along with progress reports and news concerning the Capital Expansion Project, will appear in subsequent newsletters. And, please, accept my personal guarantee: We're gonna have some fun!

**Jan McFarland, Chairman of the Capital Expansion Committee**



## NGS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PRESENTED TO DGS!



*DGS Members Surround President J. Bruce Moseley Holding NGS Award*

The 1993 National Genealogical Society Award for Achievement by an Organization was presented to the Dallas Genealogical Society in recognition of its exceptional contributions to the field of genealogy at the recent NGS Conference in the States. The plaque and cash award was accepted by J. Bruce Moseley, outgoing President on June 3, 1994 in Houston, Texas.

The citation was given in recognition of the following Society accomplishments: in the 39 years since it was established, the Society has assumed a leadership role in the

genealogical community. Membership has doubled over the last ten years. The Society publishes the exceptional bi-monthly "*DGS Newsletter*" and *The Dallas Quarterly*. It has also published twelve volumes on Dallas County and Texas in the past five years.

The organization stages a Spring Seminar, Fall Symposium, Summer Lecture Series, Beginners' Workshop and monthly meetings which set national standards and provide outstanding learning opportunities. Other activities include a Computer Interest Group, study trips, Annual Writing Awards and the sale of research materials to assist and encourage members in their genealogical and family history pursuits.

In support of the Dallas Public Library, DGS has donated approximately \$100,000 to the Genealogy Section over the last five years, and a DGS Volunteer program assists the Library staff. The DGS is currently engaged in a Capital Expansion Project to improve the physical facilities in the Genealogy Section. When completed in 1995, shelving, microform readers and patron work space will be doubled. The cost of this project is \$175,000, of which about 30 percent has already been collected.

All of the above activities require a tremendous amount of effort, and the DGS is very blessed which an unending supply of talented, enthusiastic volunteers. The award was earned by all the dedicated DGS contributors, both past and present. The proclamation which accompanied the NGS award may be found on page 93 of this issue of the *DGS Newsletter*.

### 1993 AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT - ORGANIZATION

The Award for Achievement - Organization is an award for a non-profit genealogical or historical organization in recognition of exceptional contributions to the field of genealogy over a period of five or more years, which have resulted in significantly aiding or furthering an interest in genealogy.

The recipients of the Award for Achievement - Organization have been active in the genealogy field since 1955. This year marks their fortieth year of collecting, preserving and making available genealogical and historical materials to its members and researchers.

In the last five years, the organization has published twelve volumes on newspapers, cemeteries and genealogical resources in their county. They sponsor spring, summer and fall seminars, beginner's workshops and monthly meetings which set national standards. They have donated approximately \$100,000 to the Genealogy Section of the local public library over the past five years. Volunteers assist the staff at this library.

It is with much pleasure that we present the 1993 Award for Achievement - Organization to the Dallas Genealogical Society who publish the quarterly, *The Dallas Quarterly*, and who support the Genealogy Section of the J. Erik Jonsson Dallas Public Library.



## President's Report 1994-1995

The fortieth year of the Society began early: a Board orientation session in June, a brainstorming retreat in July, and a planning meeting in August. By the time of the first regular meeting of the Society, the whole year's schedule of events was laid out. We hit the ground running and never let up. It was another banner year. The Society grew in numbers—we hit the magic 1,000 members—as well as in the variety of events. Regular meetings featured fascinating talks by mostly local Society members. A new Beginner's Packet was introduced at the Beginner's Workshop; both were outstanding.

Our annual Fall Workshop was upgraded into a two-day Regional Conference by adding an Awards Banquet the night before. After a memorable meal at the Royal Oaks Country Club, four awards were presented: Bob Maybrier was the Volunteer of the Year, Helen Mason Lu received recognition with the Award of Merit, the Distinguished Service Award went to Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, and the Heritage Preservation Award was jointly shared by Jerry Henderson and Black Dallas Remembered.

The Conference was again held at the Dallas Convention Center, with five sessions arranged into seven tracks, to serve all levels. One of our major fund raisers for the library, it remains our best-attended and most talked-about event.

The Capital Expansion project continued to be publicized with unusual fund-raising events. This time it was a Picnic in the Cemetery at the Pioneer Cemetery adjacent to the Convention Center. Good food, good fun, good donations. The project now has enough funding to begin construction; review and approval by Library and City personnel is continuing.

February brought another week-long DGS trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Billed as a "No Frills Package," the thirty-nine researchers agreed it was the best trip yet. With orientation sessions, planning brochures, on-site guides, and even a party, it could hardly be called "no frills." The trip netted almost \$2,200 for the Society to donate to the Dallas Public Library. The success of this trip has assured that it will be an annual activity.

The Spring Seminar featured Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, whose four lectures informed and inspired the nearly three-hundred who attended. The Annual DGS Writing Awards were presented during the Seminar. The Summer Lecture Series continued its successful format, with three nationally-recognized speakers: Brent Holcomb, David Rencher, and Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck. Co-hosted by the Dallas Public Library, the \$7,400 net income supports the Library's Genealogy Section.

Yet it was not "more of the same" that made this year so memorable; it was the many new activities and achievements, such as: two new Special Interest Groups: one for Professionals, one for African-American researchers; creation of a Records Preservation Committee which aided Dallas County by coordinating the archiving of records with the State Repository in Dallas; and the real coup: the selection of the Society to co-host the annual Federation of Genealogical Societies' Conference in Dallas in 1997.

The year was one of excitement, activity, and progress. The Society is healthy, financially-sound, creative, and full of active volunteers. It has been an honor and indeed a privilege to serve as its president. My deepest thanks are extended to the members of the Board of Directors as well as to others who gave so much of their time and talent to the Society.

**Art Rubeck**

# DGS NEWSLETTER



December 1996

Volume 20, Number 10 (Issue 174)

## The Party's Over!!! Capital Expansion Gala Is a Great Success!

by Karen Avery Miller, Capital Expansion Chairman

Sunday, 20 October, was a milestone in DGS history, marking the completion of the Capital Expansion Project. Conceived by a long-range planning committee in 1992, presented to the Society as a project in 1993, and completed in 1996, the expansion of the Genealogy Section has been a volunteer effort of epic proportions.

More than 200 guests signed in at the volunteer desk of the eighth floor Genealogy Section Sunday afternoon to celebrate in grand style. Chapter 21 of the Colonial Dames of America served cake and punch, while DGS Volunteer Docents, stationed around the room, provided information on the various changes made during the expansion. Old friends shared stories and new friends joined in. Laughter and the flash of cameras filled the usually quiet room. The Dedication Ceremony was the proud moment when the DGS officially handed the project over to the City of Dallas. Karen Miller, CEP Chairman,

opened the ceremony by recounting the history of the formation of the DGS and the beginning of its relationship with the Dallas Public Library. The Reverend Gordon Miltenberger, a DGS member, gave the Invocation. Acknowledging the early years of the



Capital Expansion Project and thanking those who were the beginning force behind this wonderful idea was President Leslie Collier. Patricia Westerlage, Regent of the General Levi Casey Chapter, NSDAR, shared insight and stories of Edith Allen

Palmer, for whom the microform area has been named. This chapter has donated very generously to the project in memory of Mrs. Palmer and pledged to continue their support on a yearly basis. Heather Williams introduced Ms. Mary K. Shum, Assistant City Manager of the City of Dallas. Ms. Shum, a genealogist at heart, spoke on behalf of the City of Dallas and graciously accepted this gift. Ramiro Salazar, Director of Libraries, acknowledged and expressed his appreciation to the Society for their volunteer commitment to the Genealogy Section. The Ceremony came to an exciting close as Lloyd Bockstruck, Supervisor of the Genealogy Section and a highly respected DGS member, cut the yellow ribbon, which was held symbolically by DGS President Leslie Collier and DPL Director Ramiro Salazar.

Immediately following the Dedication Ceremony, a private reception was held in the O'Hara

*(Continued on page 196)*

## FGS/DGS

3-6 September 1997

*"A Conference for the Nation's Genealogists"*

(Continued from page 181)

**The Party's Over!!!**

Exhibit Hall for major contributors and guests. President Collier presented plaques of appreciation to the following individuals who had been instrumental in the Capital Expansion Project: Jan McFarland, for her vision and insight to begin this project; Bill Benson, who volunteered his expertise as Architect; and Heather Williams, for her support and assistance to the DGS throughout this project. In addition, the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter 21, presented their charter to the DGS to be hung in the Genealogy Section. By 7:00 P.M. on 20 October 1996, the 1992-1996 Capital Expansion Project was officially over! Congratulations DGS!

*On a personal note, I would like to express my appreciation to the following individuals who have helped me by giving their time, money, and soul to this project during the time I have served as CEP Chairman: Leslie Collier, who serves this society as an excellent leader in very busy times; Barbara Dossett, for her great financial aptitude and foresight; Sammie Lee, whose talents are innumerable and are given freely; the 1995/96 & 1996/97 Boards of Directors, who have diligently performed their duties and are a*

**Edith Allen Palmer Honored**

Fellow genealogist and long-time Dallas County resident Edith Allen Palmer was honored and remembered by the General Levi Casey chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, through a generous donation made in her name to the DGS Capital Expansion Project. In response to this gift, the Dallas Genealogical Society and the Dallas Public Library have recently named the newly remodeled microform area for Mrs. Palmer.

Edith is remembered for her years of volunteer service in many areas. Throughout her lifetime she acquired a sizable genealogical library that was left to her local DAR chapter. They, in kind, distributed her collection among various repositories. Her memory will

live on in the Dallas Public Library through the donation of her books and pamphlets, and through the generous monetary contributions made in her honor by the General Levi Casey Chapter, DAR.



*great bunch with which to work; the staff of the Genealogy Section, for their great attitudes and patience throughout this ordeal; to Lloyd for just being Lloyd; to all the volunteers who showed up for "Bringing the Books Back"; mega thanks to a very special crew who served as docents, handled registration, stayed late Saturday to clean the Genealogy Section, or just held my hand through the Gala Weekend--Shirley Hawn, Selenda Billington, Ruth Slatton,*

*Barbara Ware, Nancy Humphrey, Carole Ruska, Dorothy Bruce, Margret Pearce, Charlotte Cottongame, Phyllis McCauley, Mary Johnson, Adrienne Jamieson, Hallie Garner, Sheila Stough, Leslie Collier, Sammie Lee, Barbara Dossett, and Helen Boehning; and Bill Benson and Heather Williams, for their important parts on the CEP Committee. And to my supportive husband, Clay Miller, who is just happy it's over!*



**Some brave souls actually tried to do *research* in the midst of all the merriment!**

**DGS Receives  
Proclamation  
From the City of Dallas  
by Karen Avery Miller**

Wednesday, 16 October 1996, President Leslie Smith Collier accepted a Proclamation from the City of Dallas on behalf of the Dallas Genealogical Society. Presented by Councilman Steve Salazar, the plaque commemorates the Capital Expansion Project. Mayor Ron Kirk praised the Society and its ongoing support of the Genealogy Section. Councilwoman Donna Blomer extended her congratulations and acknowledged other society members who were in the audience (Pam Edman, Barbara Dossett, Karen Miler). Councilman Craig McDaniel, who shared a personal research story, made mention of the fact that if you want to find a crowd on a Saturday or Sunday, just go to the Genealogy Section. The plaque has been framed and can be found hanging on the *DGS post* in the department.

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, December 1996, Volume 20, Number 10.

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR DGS!



(Reprinted from *Oak Cliff Tribune*, 5 Nov. 1998, Page 24, no byline; edited here)

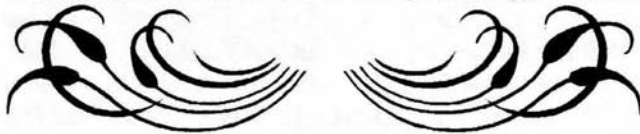
On October 21, Mayor Ron Kirk gave special recognition to the Dallas Genealogical Society's \$70,500 gift given by the 1997/98 DGS Board to the Genealogy Section of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library.

The gift will be used to purchase storage cabinets, computer equipment and research materials for the genealogy section. "All of these resources are much needed in what is one of the busiest public service areas of the library," said Dallas Public Library director Ramiro Salazar.

Last year the library received a \$15,000 gift from DGS. According to Sammie Lee, local arrangements' chair and member of DGS, this year's award was larger due to the 1997 National Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference. As host of the conference, DGS made \$30,000, and earned another \$10,000 by hosting the party "Dallas 100 Years Ago" at Old City Park. This was the Society's first time to host a national conference.

The Dallas Genealogical Society is the oldest continuously functioning genealogical society in Texas, and has a long-standing relationship of both financial and volunteer assistance with the Dallas Public Library.

In 1995-96, DGS provided the library with \$150,000 for a capital expansion project that included construction of a larger genealogy section and new shelving and furniture, as well as \$15,000 for materials. During 1997-98, DGS volunteers contributed 3,513 hours to the genealogy section.



*(President's remarks:* It is nice to get recognition for a job well done, and all members and volunteers deserve a pat on the back. The proclamation has been framed and is hanging in the genealogy section. Several council members asked questions about DGS and were very complimentary about our work.)

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, January 1999, Volume 23, Number 1.

### **DGS Journal A Winner!**

DGS recently received the following announcement from the Texas State Genealogical Society:

Thank you for your entry in the Texas State Genealogical Society 2001 Writing Awards Competition. Your interests in preserving genealogy and family history are to be applauded. All entries in the competition have already or will be reviewed in "Book News and Views," for STIRPES, the official publication of the organization.

We are pleased to announce that your entry, *The Dallas Journal*, was awarded First Place in the Category of Journals of Partner Societies. Awardees will be presented during the Annual Conference Banquet on November 9, 2001 in Tyler, Texas. We hope you will be able to attend to accept your award. (Shari Degan and Tresa Tatyrek will be in attendance to accept the award.)

Congratulations to Barbara Ware and all her volunteers. We always knew our journal was a work of beauty and a real contribution to the society. It's wonderful to be recognized for making a difference!

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, October 2001, Volume 25, Number 8.

### **Eighth Floor Renovation**

Great news! The Eighth Floor renovation of the History & Social Sciences and Genealogy Sections of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library is complete...and so pleasant! The Genealogy section of the Eighth Floor has grown in size. The floor layout creates an open, airy atmosphere that is a joy in which to do research. There are more tables and electrical access for laptop computer use.

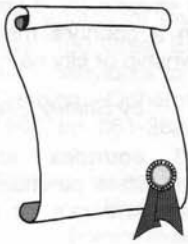
We would like to recognize our patrons:

The Mayor & City Council of Dallas, The Eugene McDermott Foundation, The Cecil and Ida Greene Foundation, The Dallas Foundation, Anonymous Donors, The Hillcrest Foundation founded by Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr., The Philip Jonsson Foundation, The Texas Instruments Foundations, Donors like you, and Friends of the Dallas Public Library, Inc.

Come see for yourself and get lost amongst the growing stacks of resources!

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, July 2002, Volume 26, Number 4.





This is a reprint of an article in **Family Tree Magazine**. The name of the article is, "LEADERS OF THE STACKS."

"Texas does everything in a big way, and the **Dallas Public Library**, formed in 1901, is no exception.

Its recently renovated and expanded Genealogy Section has two miles of shelves and attracts 50,000 plus researchers every year."

What this direct quote from the October, 2002, issue of **Family Tree Magazine** is telling us is that the genealogy section of the Dallas Public Library has been chosen one of the top ten public libraries for genealogical research in the country. We knew that, but it's nice to let the rest of the world know also.

The other public libraries in the top ten are:

**Allen County Public Library**  
Ft. Wayne, Indiana  
[www.acpl.lib.in.us](http://www.acpl.lib.in.us)

**Clayton Public Library**  
Houston, Texas  
[www.houstonlibrary.org/clayton](http://www.houstonlibrary.org/clayton)

**Birmingham Public Library** Birmingham, Alabama  
[www.bham.lib.al.us](http://www.bham.lib.al.us)

**Denver Public Library**  
Denver, Colorado  
[www.denver.lib.co.us/ebranch/resources\\_genealogy.html](http://www.denver.lib.co.us/ebranch/resources_genealogy.html)

**Detroit Public Library**  
Detroit, Michigan  
[www.detroit.lib.mi.us/burton](http://www.detroit.lib.mi.us/burton)

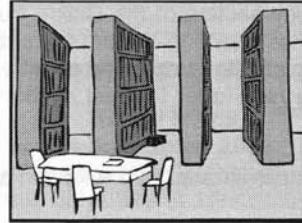
**Los Angeles Public Library**  
Los Angeles, California  
[www.lapl.org/central/history.html](http://www.lapl.org/central/history.html)

**Mid Continent Public Library**  
Independence, Missouri  
[ge@mcpl.lib.mo.us](mailto:ge@mcpl.lib.mo.us)

**New York Public Library**  
New York City, New York  
[www.nypl.org/research/chss/lhg/genea.html](http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/lhg/genea.html)

**Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library**  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
[www.cincinnati.library.org/reference](http://www.cincinnati.library.org/reference)

The article continues under the heading *Honorable Collections*. "While our top ten list honors overall excellence, these city and county public libraries have earned bragging rights as standouts in specific areas."



**Best for Browsing:** and the winner is...

#### THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

"The Dallas Public Library's genealogy section has the largest number of volumes in open stacks (you can browse the bookshelves). Other good places to browse are the Birmingham Public Library, the Clayton Library and the Mid-Continent Public Library".

Other winners in the "Honorable Collections" are:

**Largest Collections:** "The Allen County Public Library has the most genealogy holdings among public libraries; The New York Public Library comes in second".

**Best Regional Collections:** "The Boston Public Library, the Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library, the St. Louis (Mo.) Public Library, and the Seattle Public Library all have large collections focusing on their own areas of the country".

**Best Small-Town Library:** "The Indian River County Main Library in Vero Beach, Florida has an impressive genealogy collection of more than 15,000 books, 10,000 plus microfilms, more than 35,000 microfiches and all US federal census records from 1790 to 1880".

We, as genealogists, who use the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the Dallas Public Library, appreciate the opportunity we have to do our research in the lovely remodeled facility, value the staff who assist us, and know that, without Lloyd's knowledge and expertise, Dallas wouldn't have this outstanding collection available for our use.

THANK YOU,  
LLOYD DEWITT BOCKSTRUCK

*submitted by Shirley Stertz Hawn*

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## Dallas Genealogical Society Turns Fifty

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Margret Hancock Pearce

The Dallas Genealogical Society and the North Texas genealogical community remember with gratitude their ancestors in the discipline who founded the Local History & Genealogical Society in Dallas fifty years ago.

Their first meeting was held on January 17, 1955. The thirty-some members met at noon in the Downtown YMCA. Under President John Plath Green, annual dues for the new society were set at five dollars, and a monthly bulletin was approved. The meeting was reported in the first one-page newsletter, called *The Bulletin*.

The masthead reads: Local History & Genealogical Society, cooperating with the Dallas Public Library, Volume 1, Number 1, February 21, 1955.

The society's statement of purpose was prominently featured:

- To create, foster and maintain interest among citizens of Dallas County in the Genealogy and Local History Section of the Dallas Public Library.
- To collect and preserve information relating to those pioneers who settled Dallas County and to the early history of this City and County.
- To preserve church, cemetery and land records, testamentary documents, diaries and manuscripts, and other source materials wherein are chronicled the achievements of those who laid in the wilderness the foundations of this great community.
- To copy and index all such records, and to catalogue them so as to make this information most readily available to present and future generations.

- To collect and make available through the Dallas Public Library the published records of other States, whence came the Texas pioneers.
- And to exchange ideas and collaborate in devising efficient methods for genealogical and historical research.

Thus began the fifty-year history of leadership provided by the Dallas Genealogical Society. Mr. Green served on the board of the Dallas Public Library, advancing the interests of the genealogy section and paving the way for other society members. DGS leadership has been instrumental in raising the standards of genealogical research in this area through its publications, workshops, and seminars.

The society's first project was the compilation of a bibliography of all books and pamphlets in the Dallas Public Library dealing with genealogical material. The project was patterned after one in St. Louis that was published in book form in 1953, a copy of which was available in the Dallas library. The book was a most valuable help in simplifying research by genealogists in the St. Louis library, and the inventory of material in the Dallas library was expected to be such an aid to researchers here.

DGS periodicals have enhanced the Dallas genealogical environment over the last half century. The newsletter continued as *The Bulletin* until 1988. Then under President Sammie Lee, *The Bulletin* went from a one-page legal-size newsletter, printed front and back, to a four-page newsletter with a new name and masthead, *DGS Newsletter*.

It was in 1957 that the society established the first quarterly, to be published in March, June, September, and December of each year. The *Dallas Quarterly*, which published records



**Dallas Genealogical Society Turns Fifty**

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related to Dallas County, retained the same format until December 1995 when it became the annual *Dallas Journal*. Members were promised a new format that would improve the quality of published materials. The *Journal* would consist of about 152 pages of Dallas County records and instead of having abstracts of records “chopped” into bits to fit the old quarterly format, members would now receive their information on full-size pages in easier-to-read print, fully indexed.

A most important contribution to the genealogical community has been the society’s monetary support of the genealogy section of the Dallas Public Library. The DGS has made large donations for materials, expansion of the section, and even the purchase of furniture. To celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the society is conducting a campaign to increase the number of books in this section from 96,000 in January 2005 to 100,000 at the end of year.

True to its statement of purpose, the society has copied, indexed, and published Dallas County records. In addition to its periodicals, the society has published such books and microforms as *Marriages in Dallas County, Early to 1850*; six volumes of Dallas County Marriage Books; *Abstracts of Dallas County Divorces, 1846-1905*; *Dallas County Probate Packets from 1846-1900*; five volumes of data from early cemeteries; newspaper abstracts for the *Texas Methodist*, *Texas Presbyterian*, *Texas Baptist*, and *Southwestern Presbyterian*; an index to witnesses in Dallas County Court Civil

case papers from 1846-1900; a historical list of Dallas County Justices of the Peace; and, to celebrate the Dallas Public Library’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2001, a book listing all the Dallas County records of interest to the genealogist at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library. These projects were accomplished through the work and dedication of society volunteers including Helen Mason Lu, Adrienne Bird Jamieson, Gwen Newmann, Margaret Smith, Dr. Alan Miller, Jim Monaghan, and Shirley Sloat.

Society members have been instrumental in acquiring supplemental funding by identifying and obtaining grant monies for special acquisitions such as the City Directories collection. And member Mike Basham ushered the Genealogy Section into the computer age. Attendance at the Computer Special Interest Group meetings now rivals that at the society’s general monthly meetings. Hundreds of volunteers have staffed the 8<sup>th</sup> floor sign-in desk and welcomed and gently steered new researchers into genealogy.

As the Dallas Genealogical Society continues to build on its heritage, may its members keep in mind those who will follow in the next fifty and the next fifty years. To this end, may the Society live long and prosper!

Sources: 1. *Local History & Genealogical Society Newsletters and Quarterlies*, Dallas Public Library; R929.10973 L 811L

2. Interview with Lloyd Bockstruck, Dallas Public Library, 30 September 2005, Margret H. Pearce

**Dallas Genealogical Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
100,000 Book Challenge**

This year the Dallas Genealogical Society is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a push to significantly expand the resources available in the Genealogical Section of Dallas' J. Erik Jonsson Central Library. Our special project for this golden year is a campaign to increase the number of books from 95,641 volumes at the end of 2004 to 100,000 volumes at the end of 2005.

The Genealogy Section of the downtown library is already the beneficiary of all the Society's fund-raising efforts, but the Society needs help to reach this extraordinary goal.

We have budgeted \$30,000 to purchase books this year. But, at an average book cost of \$35.00, the money needed to purchase 4,359 books (to achieve the 100,000 volume goal) is \$152,565. Approximately 2,000 books a year are obtained through the normal acquisition process (including gifts from our Society), but extraordinary help is needed to achieve the remaining 2,359 volumes.

Several fund-raisers are planned, but we also need donations from individuals who share our goal of increasing the holdings of our library's excellent genealogical collection. We also seek donations from companies or organizations (civic, social, lineage, ethnic) whose donations will help build additional local and national respect for our Dallas Public Library Genealogy Section, already rated among the top 10 publicly-funded genealogy collections in America.

***How can you help?***

**DONATE MONEY DIRECTLY TO THE GENEALOGY SECTION OF THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY!**

Your tax-deductible donation will be acknowledged by the library, and special bookplates will be placed in the book(s) purchased with your donation. Future researchers will remember your generosity!

You can also donate books from your genealogical collection. If you are ready to "down-size" your personal collection, you can contact us at 214-349-4718 or e-mail us at [Books@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:Books@dallasgenealogy.org) with questions about how to do this. When appropriate, DGS may be able to provide a volunteer to help you.

Shirley Sloat, DGS President

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The Dallas Genealogical Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 100,000 Book Challenge

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donor's Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) bookplate information: In honor of or in memory of (circle one): \_\_\_\_\_

May we add your name to a donor list to be published by DGS? yes/no: (circle one)  
Make check payable to: Genealogy Section, DPL and mail to: The Genealogy Section, Dallas Public Library,  
1515 Young Street, Dallas, Texas 75201

## WE DID IT! 100,000 BOOK GOAL REACHED!

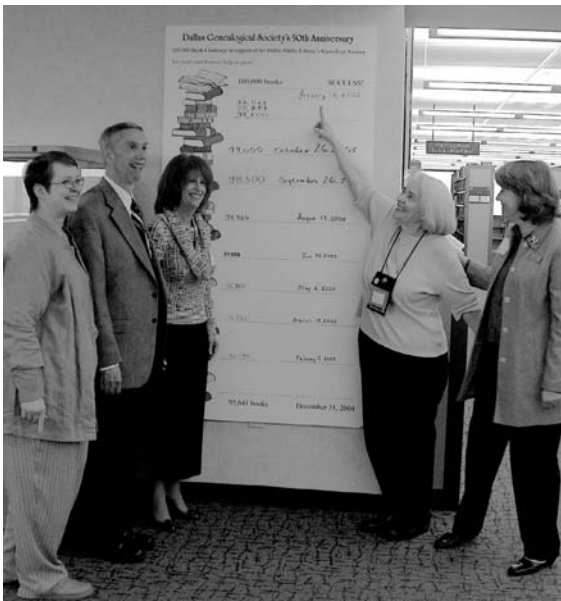
*Have you heard?* The Dallas Genealogical Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book Challenge has been met as of January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006! Here is a history of the project by **Shirley Sloat**, 2005 DGS President, who envisioned and shepherded this wonderful project to its successful conclusion:

Before the decision was made to adopt the 100,000 Book Challenge as our 50<sup>th</sup> DGS Anniversary project, we looked at the original 1955 charter of the Society. One of its stated purposes was "to collect and preserve information relating to those pioneers who settled Dallas County and to the early history of this city and county."

Throughout the years, the Dallas Public Library genealogical collection has been built not only to collect and preserve Dallas-area records but to make available "the published records of other states, whence come the Texas pioneers." For those researching family history in the southern states, Virginia, and New England, DPL genealogy resources were remarkable. However, we realized that we had far to go in order to provide a full range of material for the many other geographic locations that represent the origins of the diverse Dallas population in 2005.

Lloyd Bockstruck wrote an article for the Dallas Morning News explaining that we were seeking not only monetary contributions but actual books from the public—books from any location and any time period that might provide clues to help a researcher place an ancestor at a particular place and time. The types of books desired included alumnae lists from schools, membership lists of churches, clubs, social and political and professional organizations, town and county histories and directories, as well as family histories.

The Book Challenge Project team, made up of Shirley Sloat, Marti Fox, Shirley Hawn, Glenn Kinkade, and Happi McQuirk, developed publicity plans and contacts and various library staffers helped to create publicity posters, a colorful progress chart, and special bookplates for books acquired as part of this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary project. Behind-the-scenes library workers ramped up to deal with the increased effort necessary to implement book acquisitions, coming through as heroes as their annual workload doubled.



Standing with Book Challenge project poster (from left): Jeri Steele, Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck, Laurie Evans, Shirley Sloat, and Heather Williams.

DGS members and others in the community took the opportunity to clean out their bookshelves, donating items that will continue to be available to them from the library but now include a bookplate showing their name as "donor." Various special discounts were offered to some of us who haunted estate and garage sales and bookshops as we traveled about the state and country. One local dealer knew exactly what we wanted and handed us free books on a monthly basis to support what he agreed was our good cause. Several corporations made either outright or matching fund donations to the challenge.

The project was and is a success, with the 100,000 goal reached on January 12. The numbers will continue to increase as books in the acquisition and cataloging "pipeline" are fully processed. The count on February 1 was 100,300, with more to come!

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, February 2006, Volume 30, Number 2.

**WE DID IT!  
100,000 BOOK GOAL REACHED!  
(continued from [previous] page)**

The beauty of the project is that we have received an unexpectedly high number of books from private collections—often books that are no longer (or perhaps never were) available through public channels. They apply to an amazing number of localities spread across the United States and outside its borders. Our genealogy collection, already excellent, is now even richer with research materials for our diverse Dallas population.

Many, many thanks to all who helped us accomplish our DGS 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary project!  
– Shirley Sloat



Library Staff who helped process the books for the DGS 100,000 Book Challenge Project at party in their honor: Standing from left: Glenna Prather, Sonja Brown, Carol Alexander, Joan Condell, Andy Morrison, Mark Pratt, Thomas Moore, Sheila Scullock. Seated from left: Lloyd Bockstruck, Rose Mary Davis, Raksha Parikh, Mary Cowart

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, February 2006, Volume 30, Number 2.

### Raksha Parikh Honored



Shirley Sloat (right) presented Raksha Parikh with a plaque from DGS honoring her contribution to the 100,000 Book Challenge.

As you know, the Dallas Genealogical Society celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary during 2005 with the 100,000 Book Challenge – a project to increase the number of books in the

Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library from 95,641 volumes at the beginning of the year to 100,000 volumes by the end of 2005.

The acquisition process can stretch out over a long time period, since it may include ordering, receiving, cataloging, binding, and updating the card catalog before a book is available on the shelves for use by the public. Our agreed-upon

project procedure was that we would increase the book count only when cataloging is complete.

The Society and the public have contributed both money and books to this campaign and we are delighted to announce that our goal has been achieved. Accomplishment of all the book acquisition and processing tasks has involved many, many library employees—some of whom we rarely see because they are down on L1—and others with whom we interact more frequently because they are on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor where we DGS members spend our time. Whether we see them or not, we appreciate the work of every one of them.

One Dallas Public Library employee has been identified as an outstanding contributor toward accomplishing our 100,000 book goal.

Raksha Parikh, a member of the Materials Processing group, has done an outstanding job of quickly cataloging materials for the Genealogy Section. She catalogs or edits many more titles a month than is her goal, most of these being genealogy materials. She has become so proficient that the cataloger who is training her allows her to edit records for reprints and to input original cataloging which no other staff in her grade level has ever been capable of or allowed to do. Month after month her accuracy rate is 100%, so not only does she do a tremendous amount of work but also it is exceptionally accurate. When she receives a volume in a set, she adds the title of the new volume to the contents note on the cataloging record.

As a result, patrons are able to search the library catalog by the title of the volume and find the record. This takes time. Most of the author, compiler or editor names on genealogy materials do not have name authority established. (Name authority establishes a unique name form for each author, compiler, etc. or chooses a single name form when an author writes under more than one name, so that all books, music, etc. written by the person can be found by searching using that one name form.) While Raksha doesn't set up the name authorities, she must search several places first to determine that the name authority hasn't already been established and that, too, takes time.

The Society would like to commend and thank Raksha Parikh for the diligence and proficiency that helped us achieve our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary project goal.

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, February 2006, Volume 30, Number 2.

## SPECIAL MOMENTS FROM THE DGS 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK CHALLENGE

by Shirley R. Sloat

The celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Dallas Genealogical Society in 2005 called for a very special project. One that would be a spectacular enhancement of one of the stated purposes of its original 1955 charter: “to collect and preserve information relating to those pioneers who settled Dallas County and to the early history of this city and county.”

By then, the Dallas Public Library’s genealogical collection had been built not only to collect and preserve Dallas-area records, but also to make available “the published records of other states, whence come the Texas pioneers.” For those researching family history in the southern states, Virginia, and New England, DPL genealogy resources were remarkable. However, we had far to go to provide a full range of material for the many other geographical origins of Dallas’s diverse population in 2005.

In April 2005, the DGS Board announced “The Dallas Genealogical Society’s 50th Anniversary Book Challenge,” with a very aggressive goal to increase the number of books on the shelves of the 8th floor Genealogy Section from 95,641 to 100,000 volumes. Lloyd Bockstruck wrote an article for *Dallas (Texas) Morning News* explaining that we were seeking not only monetary contributions, but actual books from the public—books from any location and any time period that might provide clues to help a researcher place an ancestor at a particular place and time. Books desired included alumnae lists from schools; membership lists of churches, clubs, and social, political, and professional organizations; town and county histories and directories; and family histories.

The Book Challenge Project Team, made up of myself, Marti Fox, Shirley Hawn, Glenn Kinkade, and Happi McQuirk, planned and implemented the project. It became apparent that as more books were acquired, we depended more and more on the behind-the-scenes cataloging workers on floor L1. They ramped up to deal with the increasingly fast pace of book acquisitions, as their annual workload doubled.

The goal was officially reached on 12 January 2006. Better yet, the count continued to increase as books in the acquisition and cataloging “pipeline” were fully processed. The count on 1 February 2006 was 100,300 with more to come. The collection now included books from unexpected sources dealing with a very great variety of locations.

To celebrate successfully reaching our goal, we hosted a Thank You party for the cataloging workers and 8th floor staff on 23 January 2006. In preparation for the event, where some of us were meeting each other for the first time, I prepared a workflow diagram or “pipeline,” showing all the functions performed by DPL staff to ready a new book for the 8th floor shelves. For many of the attendees this was the first time they could see how their efforts fit into the process.

The functions in the pipeline at that time were (in no particular order):

- Collection Development
- Design and Graphic Services
- Receiving and Delivery

- Materials Processing
- Genealogy Section

DGS also presented a plaque to Raksha Parikh, a member of the Materials Processing group, naming her an outstanding contributor toward accomplishing our goal. Cataloging accurately is a complex task that is absolutely necessary for library patrons to search the library catalog by title or subject to find the desired record. She catalogued or edited many more titles a month than was her goal, with an exceptional 100 percent accuracy rate, helping us to cope with the huge number of new volumes destined for the Genealogy Section.

For me, this party was one of the highlights of the 50th anniversary project. Getting to meet and work with so many capable and enthusiastic staff members and volunteers was a rare experience that I treasured then and still do. Today, ten years later, every now and then I will meet one of the L1 staff or society volunteers who participated in the project—and we smile.

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### **Author Biography**

Shirley R. Sloat was a computer professional at Texas Instruments and Sun Oil (Oryx Energy) until she retired in 1992. She immediately joined the Dallas Genealogical Society as a Life Member and began working at the 8th floor volunteer desk. She also joined a small genealogy study group who encouraged her to expand her volunteer work into other areas. Over the years she has served on the DGS Board in a number of positions, including president. She received DGS awards for the Writing Contest, Volunteer of the Year, Historical Preservation, and the Award of Merit. She received the Dallas Public Library Award of Excellence twice, and the A. C. Greene Award from the Friends of the Dallas Public Library. Shirley still volunteers on the 8th floor on Wednesdays, and is a proofreader for *Pegasus*. Her latest project is collecting, editing, and posting online the remembrances of a close friend who is the last living granddaughter of Georgia slaves who came to Texas in 1894.

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## DALLAS CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS CONCERNING DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 1986–2011

Compiled, extracted, and transcribed by Janet Khashab, AG<sup>®</sup>

### BUDGET CUTS AND THE LIBRARY

As you may have heard, the City of Dallas has a budget short fall and must cut expenses between now and October 1, and the budget for the library system for the 1986–1987 year will be less than this year's. Mr. O'Brien was asked to trim this year's budget and made a number of suggestions to Mr. Charles Anderson, City Manager, which were presented to the City Council. Some of these were that areas that do not circulate books and are served by "narrow" interest groups, could be closed without affecting services to the people of Dallas: close 16mm Film Service, Fine Books, Genealogy, Texas/Dallas Collection. Several persons appeared before the City Council showing support for Genealogy and other reference areas. This was preceded by calls and letters to City Council members indicating concern about these closings. The Council accepted Mr. O'Brien's recommendations.

Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Director of Libraries, Dallas, Texas, in a statement made to Norma Cansler, President of DGS, stated on June 18, 1986, "Budget plans have been submitted which will not have any effect on the Genealogy Department. These plans must yet be approved by the City Manager's office, and by the City Council. On July 17 there will be an open presentation to the City Council, and by mid-August it should be known if the plan is approved as submitted." Mr. O'Brien has also stated that in all likelihood Genealogy will not be closed between now and October 1.

Some proposed changes to the operations of the Library for Budget 1986–87, beginning October 1, 1986 are: 1) Close 16mm Film Service. 2) Some staff cuts including all temporary part-time. For Genealogy this would be the loss of two temporary part-time staff members - Wally and Kelvin. 3) Combining Texas/Dallas Collection with Fine Books under Marvin Stone after Lucile Boykin retires 1 Jan. 1987. 4) Changes in Branch and Central hours. Shorter hours for the Central Library:

Monday and Wednesday	10-9	Saturday	10-5
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	10-6	Sunday	1-5

At the July 22 meeting of The Municipal Library Advisory Board the latest Budget proposal for 1986–87 will be presented. This meeting is open to the public. Meets on the second floor, Board Room, Administrative area, Central Dallas Public Library, around 4 o'clock.

The objectives of this Society shall be to create, foster and maintain interest in Genealogy, and to assist and support the Genealogical Department of the Dallas Public Library; to collect and preserve information relating to those pioneers who settled Dallas County, and to the early history of this City and County; to preserve Church, cemetery and land records, testimonial documents, diaries and manuscripts and other source materials, copying and indexing these records. Art. I, Sec. 2, DGS Bylaws.

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, June 1986, Issue 88.



**BUDGET CUTS AND THE LIBRARY**

All of us are vitally concerned about the proposed cuts in Dallas Library funds and services, as well as other city services. Some of our members have attended meetings of the City Council and the Town Meetings where such matters have been discussed, but have been greatly outnumbered by the persons speaking up for such groups as Parks and Recreation, etc. WE CARE what happens to the Library, and now is the time to SPEAK UP! The Non-Circulating collections in the Library have the most to lose: Genealogy, Fine Books, Texas/Dallas, and Government Publications. Another big concern for all of us is the proposed tremendous cut in the amount of money available for Security in the Library.

If at all possible, go to this Town Meeting:

Tuesday, 9 September, 7:30, at Dealey Recreation Center Auditorium (Royal Lane at Tibbs).

Your presence and your support WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

For your information, the following dates have been set for the decisions concerning the budget (you can go to City Council meetings also):

Sept. 10 - Council adopts budget on First Reading

Sept. 24 - Council adopts budget on Final Reading, sets tax rate, and levies '86-'87 tax rate

If you cannot attend any of these meetings, at least call or write your City Councilman or other persons who might influence the decisions concerning the Library budget. Those persons and addresses were set out in the June Newsletter.

If you want more information, call Margaret Ann Hudson, at 661-5126.

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, September 1986, Issue 89.



**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

*Janet Khashab, AG*

"There's this American flag, apple pie thing about libraries ... Somehow they have been put in the category of a sacred organization."

Frank A. Pezzanite, CEO of L.S.S.I. (a private library management company)<sup>1</sup>

The Dallas City Council recently felt the full effects of the "American flag, apple pie thing" when it tried to cover a budget shortfall by cutting hours and staff at the Central Library and the various branch libraries. Genealogists, not only in Dallas but also in the surrounding areas and even nationwide, joined Dallas citizens in writing letters and emails to the City Council stating their objections to the drastic reduction in library services which would follow the proposed budget cuts. Many DGS members, living in Dallas or owning property there, also attended the various town hall meetings to voice their concerns. The council members were reminded that the Central Library's Genealogy Department is a treasured resource which requires good stewardship and cannot be sacrificed for financial expediency.

Unfortunately, the only solution found was to raise property taxes for Dallas residents by a small amount and this was passed by an 8 to 7 vote by the City Council on September 22, 2010. This increase in budget revenues does not keep funding at the Genealogy Department at the 2010 levels, which was already less than 2009 levels; however, the reduction in hours and staff are not as severe as first proposed.

Since its establishment in 1955, the Dallas Genealogical Society has been steadfast in its support of the Genealogy Department of the Central Library in fulfillment of our objectives as stated in our Charter. However, this has not been met with a firm commitment by the city government to maintain this valuable asset. Starting in 1987 the hours and staff of the Central Library have been periodically reduced which has resulted in a gradual deterioration in services. In consideration of this long history of unequal commitment to preserving and fostering the Central Library and its Genealogy Department, I have put together the beginnings of a task force which will examine the relationship which DGS has with the Central Library and will make future plans to protect our long-term investment in the Genealogy Department. I will keep the membership informed on the progress of the task force.

In closing, I would like to thank our members and all concerned genealogists everywhere who took time to write to the Dallas City Council in support of the Genealogy Department, which truly belongs to all of us.

<sup>1</sup> Streitfeld, David, "Outsourcing Fairly Healthy Public Libraries, and Hearing a Roar," *New York Times*, September 27, 2010, Section A1, National Edition.

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, October 2010, Volume 36, Number 4.



**Extract from the President's Annual Report 2010–2011**

...the DGS offers more than just financial contributions to the Genealogy Department collection. In June 2011 the Executive Board approved donating \$1,890 for one year service contracts on two microfilm reader printers used in the Genealogy/Texas and Local History Division because facilitating access to a collection is as important as building up a collection. This same reasoning caused the DGS Board to take a very active role in opposing drastic City of Dallas budget cuts to the Central Library. We had a targeted campaign from June to September 2010 which centered on impressing City Council members with the importance of the research departments of the Central Library, which include the Genealogy Department.

Through our website and E-blasts, we urged all our members to write to the Dallas City Council and if the member was living within the Dallas city limits, to attend Town Hall meetings about the budget cuts and to write to their Council representative. DGS Board members living in Dallas were especially active in soliciting support from their friends and neighbors. At the FGS conference in Knoxville as DGS President, I [Janet Khashab] stood up at discussions in the “Focus on Societies” meetings and told the participants about the effect the proposed budget cuts would have on DPL’s Genealogy Department and asked them to write to the Dallas City Council so it would understand the national significance of the genealogical collection in Dallas. I solicited help from the FGS Records Preservation and Access Committee, and Fred Moss as a RPAC and DGS member presented a supporting letter from the FGS Committee to the Dallas City Council. I also asked for support from the delegates to the Texas State Genealogical Societies during a meeting in Houston and from the readers of Dick Eastman’s Newsletter. As a result of all this effort and the pressure put on the Dallas City Council, the final Council vote was 8 to 7 in favor of a slight increase in property taxes for “essential services.” During the broadcast of the Council proceedings, one Council member specifically mentioned the research floors of the Central Library as a recognized Dallas asset. However, although the worst of the budget cuts were avoided, there were still reductions in library services, hours and staff in 2010. ...

—*DGS Newsletter*, August 2011, Volume 37, Number 3

Contributor’s Note: The library services, staffing levels, and hours of operation are now in 2015 almost at 2010 levels.

**DGS WEBSITE WINS TSGS FIRST PLACE AWARD FOR  
PARTNER SOCIETY WEBSITE DESIGN**



On 4 November 2011, the Texas State Genealogical Society awarded the DGS website, and its webmaster Tony Hanson, First Place in the Partner Society Website Design category. The purpose of the Texas State Genealogical Society's website awards is to encourage partner societies and individual members to promote genealogy and history on the worldwide web, sharing information and servicing global communities. This was the first win for the DGS website and included a \$100 cash award. To see what other awards DGS has received, visit <http://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/about/society-awards>.

## DGS Joins the 1940 U.S. Census Community Indexing Project

The Dallas Genealogical Society has joined forces with genealogy societies and organizations around the country as part of the 1940 U.S. Census Community Project. The initiative aims to publish a free, online searchable name index of the 1940 U.S. Federal Census after images of the census are released to the public in April 2012. This online index will be free forever,



offering family history researchers a rich genealogical data set for their ongoing use. Three leading genealogy organizations, Archives.com, FamilySearch International, and findmypast.com launched the initiative at the end of last year, and the project is already engaging volunteers to help provide this invaluable resource to family historians around the world as soon as possible.

The index created by the project will allow the public to easily search every person found in the census and view digital images of the original census pages where he or she is listed. The highly anticipated 1940 U.S. Census is expected to be the most popular U.S. record collection released to date.

“The 1940 Census is attractive to both new and experienced researchers because most people in the United States can remember a relative that was living in 1940. It will do more to connect living memory with historical records and families than any other collection previously made available,” said David Rencher, Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch.

The 1940 U.S. Census Community Project is also receiving support from leading societal organizations like the Federation of Genealogical Societies, National Genealogical Society, and Ohio Genealogical Society, as well as other societies around the United States.

Go to [www.the1940census.com/society](http://www.the1940census.com/society) and follow the instructions for Society Members to register to participate with our society. Simply select Dallas Genealogical Society on the profile screen when creating your account. If you already have a FamilySearch account, go to [indexingfamilysearch.org](http://indexingfamilysearch.org). Click Sign In, then click the Edit button to select DGS. Every person indexing with our society gets us closer to milestones that qualify us for incentives provided by the sponsors of the project, so sign up today!

### Preparing for the 1940 Census

Release of the 1940 Census for public inspection is April 2, 2012. The U.S. Census Bureau and National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) have been preparing for this for quite some time. The digitization project has been completed and NARA will release these images for online browsing via the Internet beginning on Monday, April 2. Note that the images are available for “browsing.” It will be some time before the 1940 Census is searchable, as volunteers around the world begin the indexing process (see above article for how you can help). In the meantime, researchers can start preparing to search the records as soon as they are available by doing a little preparation now. Start by listing those direct-line ancestors who were found in the 1930 census and were still living in 1940. See page 3 or visit [www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/](http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/). Some genealogy software providers have added tools to search your database for ancestors likely to be in the 1940 census.

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, April–June 2012, Volume 38, Number 2.

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## Remembering 55 Years in the Dallas Genealogical Society

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### Sam V. Akins

In 1957 at age 24, I joined the “Local History and Genealogy Society of Dallas” and was their youngest member (the only member without gray hair). I can’t believe I have been a member for well over 50 years.

My maternal great grandfather, John Willis Holston (b. 1861 in Miss.), after raising his family in Amarillo and Vernon, Texas usually spent a month with my parents and me in Jacksboro, Texas at Christmas time during my childhood. As there was no social security at that time and since his old age pension was only \$30 a month, he had to spend a month with each of his seven children and some of his adult grandchildren. I was in elementary school, an only child, and he was my 80+ year -old Texas cowboy hero.

“Grandpa” Holston’s father, William Brock Holston (b. 1827) was killed in Mississippi, where they lived during the Civil War, fighting for his beloved confederacy. “Grandpa” was only 1 year old when his father died. Soon after the war, because the family had lost their plantation and everything they owned, John Willis’ grandfather brought him, his older brother, James Wesley and their mother, Dorothy Drucilla Miles Holston, in a covered wagon which was ferried across the great Mississippi River and travelled on to Texas for a new life on the Bosque/Brazos Rivers in Hill County at a place called Towash Mill. Within a year of their arrival “Grandpa’s” grandfather died and his mother remarried. As teenagers he and his brother soon left home to support themselves. At age 17 he made the first of many trips up the cattle trails from Canadian, Texas to Dodge City, Kansas, then on to Cheyenne, Wyoming and through the black Hills of South Dakota. In 1886 his brother was killed in Vernon, Texas by cattle rustlers. “Grandpa” joined the Texas Rangers in 1885 at age 22. In 1886 he married his brother’s widow who had three children.

When “Grandpa” Holston visited he would tell me stories of these adventures and of sighting Indians along the way. At age 10 or so I began writing down details about this side of my family and soon when we visited grandparents and great aunts and uncles I would ask for family stories and photos. I was drawing “family trees” by age 12 but I had never heard the word “genealogy” until after college and graduate study at U.N.T., marriage, and the army in Korea. I joined Southwestern Bell for management training in downtown Dallas on Akard Street and Jackson in 1957. A co-worker, now a lifelong friend, Robert Lankford said, “Since we have a whole hour for lunch why don’t we bring our lunch and visit the downtown Library, just a few blocks away in a two-story building on Commerce at Ervay Street.” He wanted to look up his wife’s family, the pioneer Merrifields of Duncanville and Oak Cliff. Her Merrifield grandparents’ graves are easily seen by all who drive by the intersection of Jefferson Blvd. and Hampton Road in Oak Cliff, once their home place. I had known my paternal grandmother, Mary Pearl White Akins, was born in Dallas County in 1882, but that was all I knew about her early family, so I went along to see if I could find out more. She had died while living with us in 1950 but as always I hadn’t asked enough questions.

Mrs. Margaret Pratt was the only librarian assigned to the “Local and Texas Historical and Genealogical Collection” on the second floor of the ultra-modern Dallas Library building, next door to the elegant new Statler Hilton hotel. Mrs. Pratt was dedicated to her patrons and very cordial and personally helpful that day and on our “lunch hours” for the next two weeks. She gave us a folder about the “History and Genealogy Club” which was meeting monthly at noon at the downtown YWCA, and encouraged us to attend. I did and found that the lunch and speaker, Judge John Plath Green, were excellent. The members and officers I most remember after joining are John Plath Green, Mrs. Harry Joseph Morris, Judge Dee Brown Walker, Dean R. G. Storey, Margaret Ann Thetford, and the Crawfords—all active and prominent Dallas citizens, who were also active in patriotic and heraldic fraternal organizations across the county. Dean Storey turned out to be a “cousin- a few times

Remembering 55 Years in the Dallas Genealogical Society

removed”. John Plath Green very graciously invited this young genealogist into his Preston Hollow home to see how he organized his family filing system. He was thereafter a mentor to me in genealogy.

Mrs. Pratt was a librarian truly dedicated to her patrons – always providing forms, folders and information about every source of genealogical data and aids in the country. On my first visit she proudly led me to an old and rare book of *Historical Biographies of Dallas County* with a full page portrait of my Great-great Grandfather, Elisha McCommas ( b. 1830 ), who brought his family to Dallas County from Missouri in 1844 along with his father (Elder Amon McCommas b. 1804) who was following his father, Stephen McCommas (b. 1771), who came to Dallas/Ellis County in 1843. This inspired me to pursue this line further. Now I was hooked on genealogy as more than just drawing a family tree. Little did I realize that 50 + years later I would be researching over 50 lines and have photos of 18 of my grandparents and almost that many of my wife’s grandparents displayed in my study. Without the education and leadership of Dallas Genealogical Society (the oldest genealogy society in Texas) I could never have learned so much about “my families”, my county and my state – and their origins.

In the days before computers and even micro-fiche my research included expensive telephone calls, hours at the library, extra postage for writing letters to unknown relatives and even postmasters in ancestral communities, and searches of telephone books across the country. Margaret Pratt introduced me to the wonderful forms published by the LDS church and the journals and quarterlies published by Everton Publishing Company of Utah . I regularly ran ads (Queries) in their publications and still use their family group sheets and pedigree charts. But with roots in Dallas County the newsletters, quarterlies, and Journals of DGS , where I published several articles and queries, were of great help. DGS also introduced me over 30 years ago to the Dallas County Pioneer Association where I have also been active and contributed articles to their Proud Heritage books, Volumes II and III. My first gold mine was meeting Grata Jeter Clark of Ft Worth who soon published the 800 page hardcover book, *The Jeter Mosaic*, which not only corrected my research on four generations of my maternal Jeter line but added seven more detailed generations back to 1707. Grata had discovered that my Jeter ancestors lived on the farm across the road from George Washington’s family on the Potomac in Virginia and that one grandpa played with George as a child. We have since visited this historic place.

From 1958 to 1960 we relocated to Houston, Austin and San Antonio with Southwestern Bell. Without Mrs. Pratt and the Dallas Library I did no research while there. In 1960 we returned to the Metroplex and lived in Irving for 45 years while I was working in the banking industry, mostly with Dallas Federal Savings for 27 years. I was in downtown Dallas again – close at last to the Dallas Central Library and the Dallas Genealogical Society.

Within a few years Margaret Pratt retired and Lucille Boykin very ably replaced her as supervisor of the Genealogy Section and advisor to D.G.S. Then a young Lloyd Bockstruck replaced Lucille in 1973 when she retired. Through his professional knowledge and personal guidance the Dallas Public Library and DGS became noted across the nation. My first encounter with Lloyd came when I enrolled in the very first nighttime genealogy course he taught in 1974 at SMU soon after he became supervisor of the Genealogy Department at the Library. Although his course was a little advanced for me, I knew immediately he was a dedicated professional whom we were lucky to have in Dallas.

The new J. Erik Johnson Central Library was built across the street from the beautiful new City Hall designed by world acclaimed architect, I. M. Pei. The new Library had so much new space and equipment for genealogists – and even a meeting room and parking garage for nighttime meetings and seminars on Saturdays. The annual conferences grew so large that they were moved to the new Dallas Convention Center where nationally recognized speakers were attracted and the exhibits and sales of genealogical supplies, books, and forms made me feel like a “kid in a candy store”. Genealogists and vendors came from all across the U.S.A.. The genealogy collection grew dramatically under Lloyd Bockstruck as did DGS where he was a dedicated and faithful liaison/member-speaker. From the beginning volunteers from the society provided many services for the Library and at our seminars and conferences. Many members served as dedicated officers. Programs at monthly meetings were provided by local



**Remembering 55 Years in the Dallas Genealogical Society**

members, some of whom became known as nationally renowned speakers. Bockstruck personally monitored and reviewed new collections and even funded some with his own personal funds – sometimes in appreciation of an individual society member by name. Meanwhile with funds raised by DGS through its annual conferences and other seminars, DGS presented thousands of dollars for the expansion of collections and equipment in the Genealogy Department of the Dallas Public Library. In 1996 with Leslie Collier as President the society raised \$150,000 to support the expansion of the Genealogy Department to double the seating capacity and increase book shelf space from one to two miles. Volunteers staff a desk in the department and have completed many projects including inventories of large Dallas cemeteries over the years. The annual awards ceremony and country club dinners during Christmas holidays were social highlights. The library staff was so dedicated to DGS and genealogy that they would even staff “all night lockins” so members could have exclusive use of the Genealogy collection and enjoy fellowship and mid-night snacks together.

For many years an officer or active member wrote a weekly column in the Saturday *Dallas Morning News* which often attracted those readers with interest in genealogy as new members.. When Margaret Ann Thetford retired Lloyd Bockstruck wrote the column for 18 years until shortly before he retired in 2009. In one of these articles we were excited when Lloyd unknowingly featured my wife’s O’Neill family of South Carolina. In several budget cuts at the *Dallas Morning News* there was talk of canceling this column. In several instances we launched letter writing campaigns which saved these wonderful and resource filled articles. I clipped and saved these “Family Tree” columns every Saturday for 18 years and still consult them in my personal library. Lloyd also set the example for the growing library staff in assisting and serving in every way possible those researching their families – especially beginners.

DGS members have faithfully supported the Dallas Public Library in raising funds, giving books and microfilms, and making donations – and also by writing to City Hall when major cuts to the library budget were proposed. Lloyd was the library’s liaison to the society’s board. If he wasn’t at monthly meetings we knew he was out of town on speaking engagements or teaching genealogy courses at Samford University in Alabama.

This society has sponsored so many special events over the years it is not feasible to name the individual officers and board members who served in leadership and gave programs. The annual trips to the LDS Library in Salt Lake City and the special interest groups such as the Jewish and African American Groups were certainly major accomplishments of some of those individuals. Perhaps of greatest interest to most – even non members around the country have been the publications – especially the Quarterly, the DGS Newsletter, and the Dallas Journal. (Reminder – don’t dispose of these publications without offering them to your hometown library for use in building their genealogy collection. The Irving Library was thrilled to get my 25 year collection when we downsized after retirement.) DGS has provided research, resources, education, encouragement, professional speakers, fellowship and camaraderie to thousands for over 58 years now. I am probably the only member to have received these benefits continuously for over 55 years. When I joined the society there were no other young genealogists as members. After Alex Haley’s book and movie about his *Roots*, all ages made this the most popular hobby in the U.S.A.—surpassing stamp collecting, coin collecting and even golf. Genealogists are now the second largest user group on the internet. In 1999 Cyndi Howell, creator of Cyndi’s List of Genealogy Sites on the internet was the popular keynote speaker at our annual lecture series. My computer genealogy started with a boom. The first hour on my new computer in 1998 I posted a query on *Roots Web* searching for more information on my wife’s paternal Beeler family of Dallas and within 30 minutes I had a reply from Carolyn Pappas, a professional genealogist in Washington, D.C. who told me to see the current issue of the *Virginia Gazette* where she had just published 22 page article about her (and our) Beeler Family back to 1707 and to please give her personal regards to Lloyd. I am not a prolific internet genealogist but it sure was easier this way.

Little did I think, when in 1949 at age 16 while president of the Keen-Age Book Club at Jacksboro High School under Mrs. Stella Sharp, school librarian, or while I was serving as Vice President of the first statewide

Remembering 55 Years in the Dallas Genealogical Society

Teenage Library Association of Texas, or in the 1960s while on the Irving Municipal Library Board with Ms. Shelah Bell, director of Irving Libraries, or when knowing Dr. Arthur Sampley, Dean of the University of North Texas School of Library Science, or especially not when great “Grandpa” Holston told me bedtime stories about his years as a Texas Ranger that I would spend a lifetime as a family historian and genealogist and become a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Dallas County Historical Commission, the Irving Heritage Society, and the Dallas County Pioneer Association—all because of the kindnesses of Margaret Pratt, Lucille Boykin, and particularly Lloyd Bockstruck and the Dallas Genealogical Society. From this you would never know how much I DISLIKED any history course in school until my senior year at UNT when I took Texas History under Dr. Anna Powell during my last semester as an elective just to get three more easy hours. Dr. Powell told Texas stories just like “Grandpa” Holston so I have loved history ever since.

To all past and present genealogy staff at the J Erik Johnson Central Library in downtown Dallas, plus the many DGS members who have served as officers, board members, project chairs, or who have written articles or volunteered in the Genealogy department - I want to say thank you. Because of all of you my genealogy journey has been a great success and a “sentimental journey” of getting to know hundreds of cousins and ancestors on a personal basis. Few only children have as large a family (of living cousins) as do I. Thanks again!

Sam V. Akins

September 2012

P.S. My wonderful wife, Malta Evans Akins, has visited dozens of court houses and cemeteries with me; once in Bosque County a tall gravestone even fell on her! Yet after over 57 years of marriage (and genealogy) Malta still asks me “Do you think you will ever finish our family tree?”

Reproduced from *Dallas Journal*, January 2012, Volume LVIII.

**Sam V. Akins Receives President’s Special Award, Honorary Life Membership**

This President’s Special Award and an Honorary Life Membership were awarded for a memoir of the early years of DGS that will help to preserve the society’s history.

The DGS archives for the years 1955 to 1964 have been lost along with the original seal and photos of the original members. For the early years of the society we have had to rely upon short mentions of meetings published in the *Dallas Morning News* and in copies of DGS publications preserved in the library. This memoir filled in much of that missing history and has been published as the lead article in the *The Dallas Journal* for 2012.



*Sam Akins receives President’s Special Award and Honorary Life Membership from DGS President David Temple and Marianne Szabo.*

Sam V. Akins is a native of Jacksboro and a seventh-generation Texan. His McCommas ancestors first came to Dallas County in 1843. Dallas residents will be familiar with McCommas Boulevard in the M Streets neighborhood near Southern Methodist University.

He has a BA in Business Administration from the University of North Texas, and did graduate study at Southern Methodist University (SMU), the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Indiana.

After serving in the Army in Korea from 1956 to 1958, he became a bank officer at Dallas Federal Savings and First

American Savings, eventually retiring as President of United Bank & Trust.

He has been a member of the Dallas Genealogical Society since 1957 and is also a member of the Dallas County Pioneer Association, the Sons of the Republic of Texas, and the Sons of the American Revolution. He also is a charter member of the Irving Genealogical Society and the Irving Heritage Society.

In addition to genealogy, he enjoys travel, antique-hunting, and exploring Texas history.

He has done community service with libraries, universities, charitable organizations, and his church.

He and his wife of 57 years, Malta Evans Akins of Olney, Texas, have three daughters and five grandchildren.



*Sam V. Akins (3rd from right) is joined by his wife (2nd from right), friends, and other family members as he accepts his award.*

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, January–March 2013, Volume 39, Number 1.

**TSGS AWARD: WEBSITE FOR A PARTNER SOCIETY—TONY HANSON**

President Sandra Crowley also announced that DGS was awarded Second Place in the Web Site for a Partner Society category at the Texas State Genealogical Society's Annual Conference on November 2, 2013. Tony Hanson, DGS webmaster, has developed a website that presents the face of DGS to the genealogical community and also offers resource information for those researching in the Dallas area with the Oakland Cemetery database. He also has developed records retention procedures and metadata tools to insure that DGS records are archived and easily accessible by users. This is the second time the DGS website has won a TSGS Award.



*Sandra Crowley presents TSGS Website award to Tony Hanson.*

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, January–March 2014, Volume 40, Number 1.

**TSGS 2014 AWARDS: CATEGORY VI  
OFFICIAL PERIODICALS OF PARTNER SOCIETIES**

Each year the Texas State Genealogical Society presents awards to Partner Societies in a variety of publishing categories. Judging criteria includes binding, design, organization, content, interest, editing and index.

*Honoree:* *Pegasus: Journal of the Dallas Genealogical Society* is the winner of the 2014 first place award in Category VI, Official Periodicals of Partner Societies.

Open to Partner Societies only, the requirements are that the Journals must be published at least once each year, but could be more than once. DGS submitted copies of all issues published in 2014 (Research and Records issues). These copies will be archived as part of TSGS's archival collection at the Stephen F. Austin Library.



The chair of the awards committee said that *Pegasus* was clearly at the top from the time they received it. One of the TSGS directors indicated that if there had been a "Grand Prize" for this category, *Pegasus* would have received that because of the quality and content. *Pegasus* sets a new standard for society publications; any group considering starting or improving their publication should be sure to look at it.

Reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, January–March 2015, Volume 41, Number 1.



## DGS EARNS AWARDS FROM TSGS



At the closing banquet of the Texas State Genealogical Society's 2015 Family History Conference on 31 October, the Dallas Genealogical Society was honored with two awards.

First Place - Website for a Partner Society. "The purpose... is to promote genealogy and history on the world wide web, sharing information and servicing our global communities;... judging criteria include website design, navigation, contents, and customization."

Volunteer of the Year - DGS President Tony Hanson. Judging criteria include genealogical or historical research and service to the society, the community, and the local or genealogical library.

The first place award in the website category includes a \$100 gift to DGS. The Volunteer of the Year award includes a \$50 gift to the winner plus \$50 to the partner society who nominated the recipient.



# PART III



# AWARDS



## DGS SERVICE AWARDS

*by Sandra Crowley*

The lifeblood of any genealogical society is its volunteers, and the Dallas Genealogical Society is no exception. As genealogists, we are impacted by volunteers from the day we begin our research. It is thanks to volunteers that we have books in library collections that index, transcribe, and abstract records. It is thanks to volunteers that today much of the printed information is now being made available online, with thousands of records being added every day. Volunteers take pictures of tombstones at cemeteries and post them online; transcribe or abstract probate, land, and other records; and transcribe vital records into online databases and help scan the images.

Volunteers for genealogical societies are a special breed who use their time and talents to further the mission of their society. They are not afraid to step in and lend a helping hand when they see a need. They offer moral support to the society and other volunteers and they share their knowledge, while enjoying the sense of accomplishment for a job well done.

Genealogical societies rely on volunteers for educational programs, preservation projects, day-to-day operational activities, and so much more. What often sets one organization apart from another organization is its volunteers. Volunteers are a reflection of the organization. If the volunteers are motivated, professional, and committed to the organization, it usually means the organization is equally dynamic.

Without volunteers, most genealogical societies would cease to exist. Who would organize and conduct lectures, workshops, conferences, webinars, and tours? Who would write, edit, and publish society publications? Who would balance the budget? Who would work on special projects to preserve local county and city records for future generations?

Volunteers make a difference, and they need to know they are making a difference. Most volunteers say they volunteer to help fellow genealogists and because they want to help preserve and promote family history as a way to “pay it forward” to future generations. However, they appreciate knowing that the work they are doing is having an impact on their society and the genealogical community. One way to show the impact that volunteers are making on their society is through Service Awards. In this way, volunteers feel their contributions are appreciated.

### **DGS Recognition of Volunteers Before and After 1994**

Recognition can be defined as “the acknowledgement of achievement, service, merit, etc.” One form of recognition is to award certificates, plaques, or a combination of the two, which DGS began in 1994. Recognizing its volunteers is something DGS has done since its beginning.

In the early years, recognition was often given by dedicating one of the early publications to an individual or group. In May 1964, DGS President Dee Brown Walker wrote a letter to Mrs. Harry Joseph Morris designating her as the recipient of the “President’s 1964 Recognition” (see next page).

In December 1964, Walker recognized Mrs. Margaret B. Pratt for her role in starting the Local History and Genealogical Society with the dedication of the Winter 1964 Quarterly.<sup>1</sup> Through the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, recognition occurred in a variety of ways. Sometimes it was a simple “Thank You” in one of the society’s newsletters or recognition for excellence in completing a specific project.

**THANK YOU:** The Quarterly Editor, Judy Ceccucci, is moving to Akron, Ohio. Gwen Neumann, Editor last year, will serve out the remainder of the year.

**THANK YOU:** Mr. & Mrs. Lee Lambeth have completed the indexing of every name in the first roll of Dallas Probate Records put on microfilm by DGS. Bill Crawford has started indexing the second reel.

**THANK YOU:** In memory of Georgia Belle Crawford, the book, *Heralds and History* by Roger Milton was presented to the Genealogy Section of DPL by Mr. & Mrs. Harry J. Morris. Mrs. Morris made the presentation at the September meeting.

**THANK YOU:** The Audit Committee, Russell S. Marriott, Hershel W. Anderson, and Chairman Jack Spring completed the required annual audit of DGS Books.

We think that part of Mr. Spring's concise report should be printed:

WHAT WE HAD COMING, WE GOT  
WHAT WE GOT, WE SPENT  
EXCEPT, OF COURSE, FOR WHAT WE HAD LEFT OVER  
AND WHAT WE SPENT, WE SPENT FOR THE RIGHT THINGS!  
-Jack Spring -

However it occurred, the society realized the benefits of recognizing and thanking volunteers for their commitment and achievements. Sometimes, a simple “thank you” is all it takes to let someone know how much their contribution means.

In November 1994, the Dallas Genealogical Society launched the DGS Service Awards program that continues today. The awards were established to “celebrate and honor [DGS] members as well as local organizations which have contributed so much to the [research and] preservation of local family history in our area.”<sup>2</sup> These awards included the Volunteer of the Year, Award of Merit, Distinguished Service Award, and Heritage Preservation Award.

Calling it an evening that would be “long-remembered by Society members,” DGS presented the first awards at the Service Awards Banquet and Ceremony at the Royal Oaks Country Club in Dallas on 18 November 1994. Today they are presented at a DGS Awards Luncheon each December.

Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck was presented with the Distinguished Service Award for “consistent and significant contributions over a period of years.” The Service Award Committee “felt so strongly about Lloyd Bockstruck’s contributions to the Society and the field of genealogy in general that it renamed its DGS Distinguished Award,” now known as the Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award.

**Dear Mrs. Morris:**

The following will be my note of dedication for our next Bulletin:

"As President of our Local History & Genealogical Society, I hope to start a precedent with the recognition of an outstanding lady who has worked for the last several years on a genealogical and local history project at Waverly, Morgan County, Illinois. Therefore, I do recognize MYRA M. MARTIN, the wife of Guy W. Martin, 359 East Tremont, Waverly, Illinois, to receive the President's 1964 Recognition.

It is with great appreciation to her and her husband, Guy, and their dedication to the cause of preserving local history, that I dedicate this issue of our magazine and designate her to receive our President's 1964 Recognition."

Portions of a letter from DGS President Dee Brown Walker to Mrs. Henry Joseph Morris, who was honored with the “President’s 1964 Recognition.”



### *Part III: Awards*

In 2009, DGS added the President's Special Award category. This award is presented at the discretion of the DGS president based on the contributions that fall outside the scope of the other awards that the individual or group has made to the society over a period of time.

In addition to receiving a personal certificate, each recipient's name appears on a plaque that hangs in the Genealogical Section of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, the main branch of the Dallas Public Library.

As we look back at the last sixty years of the Dallas Genealogical Society and its predecessors, we want to recognize and acknowledge the achievements of those individuals who had the vision to begin this organization. We also want to recognize all of those who followed in their footsteps and continue to lay new groundwork for the future.

As the oldest continuously functioning genealogical society in the State of Texas, we are proud of our past and excited about the future. Sustaining an organization with volunteers for sixty years is quite an accomplishment! DGS is proud of all of our volunteers—past, present, and future.

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#### **Author Biography**

Sandra Crowley is the immediate past president of DGS and currently serves on the DGS Publications Committee. In addition to serving as DGS president from 2013 to 2015, she was executive vice president and vice president of education. In her professional career, she held various marketing positions for several technology companies for over twenty-five years. She is a frequent speaker at Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), Texas State Genealogical Society, and RootsTech conferences, as well as local societies. She has published articles in *ComputerWorld*, *Family Chronicle*, and *Internet Genealogy* magazines, as well as *FGS FORUM* and several society publications. Her main area of research is in the southern states, with an emphasis on Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia.

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#### **ENDNOTES**

1. For a reproduction of this letter, see page 13.
2. "DGS Services Awards Banquet—A Rousing Success!," *Dallas Genealogical Society Newsletter* 19 (January–February 1995): 1.

## **SERVICE AWARDS 1994–2014**

*Compiled by Sandra Crowley*

### **Volunteer of the Year**

This award acknowledges members who have generously volunteered time, expertise, talents, and abilities to the society during the previous year.

- 1994 Robert H. Maybrier
- 1995 Shirley Remnant Sloat
- 1996 Alan Miller
- 1997 L. Malcolm Basham
- 1998 Barbara Dossett
- 1999 Dorothy Nash Roberts
- 2000 Susan Powdrill
- 2001 Suzan Younger
- 2002 Barbara Ware
- 2003 Melvin E. Brewer
- 2004 Alvin Harper
- 2005 Tresa Tatyrek
- 2006 Sharon A. Henry
- 2007 Terri Bradshaw O'Neill
- 2008 Jeri Steele
- 2009 Jim and Pat Stone
- 2010 Barbara Ware and Tony Hanson
- 2011 Sandra Crowley
- 2012 Bob and Linda Lane
- 2013 Janet Khashab and Marianne Szabo
- 2014 Carolyn Davis

### **Award of Merit**

This award acknowledges a DGS member who has consistently contributed time, talent, expertise, and abilities to the society over a period of years.

- 1994 Helen Mason Lu
- 1995 Adrienne Bird Jamieson
- 1996 Sammie Townsend Lee

*Part III: Awards*

- 1997 Dorothy Odom Bruce
- 1998 Barbara Roberts Baylis
- 1999 Arthur H. Rubeck
- 2000 Karen Avery Miller
- 2001 Barbara Dossett
- 2002 Carole Ruska
- 2003 Shirley Stertz Hawn
- 2004 Gene Burris
- 2005 Betty Jean Steinke
- 2006 Elizabeth Deihl
- 2007 Tresa Tatyrek
- 2008 Shirley Remnant Sloat
- 2009 Jeri Steele
- 2010 Don Raney
- 2011 Barbara Ware
- 2012 Elizabeth Thurmond
- 2013 Pat and Jim Stone
- 2014 Lynell Bennett Moss and Fred Moss

**Heritage Preservation Award**

This award recognizes an individual, group, or organization that has contributed to the collection, preservation, and conservation of varying types of genealogical and historical materials.

- 1994 Black Dallas Remembered; Jerry Henderson
- 1995 Lois Dillard
- 1996 Dallas County Heritage; Old City Park
- 1997 The Dallas Public Library
- 1998 The Genealogical Society of Utah; The Dallas Public Library
- 1999 Friends of Fair Park
- 2000 Preservation Dallas
- 2001 Shirley Remnant Sloat
- 2002 City of Dallas; McDermott Foundation; Friends of the Dallas Public Library
- 2003 Frances James
- 2004 Barbara Ware; Carole C. Ruska; Suzan Younger
- 2005 Silent Souls Project; Butler Nelson Cemetery; Jerry Chambers

- 2006 Marge Stockton; Ann Williams
- 2007 General Levi Casey Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution
- 2008 ....
- 2009 African-American Genealogy Interest Group
- 2010 UNT Portal to Texas History
- 2011 Carol Roark, interim director of Preservation Dallas, (former manager of Dallas Public Library 7th floor Texas and Dallas Collection)
- 2012 Mike Hazel, editor of *Legacies: A History Journal of Dallas and North Central Texas*
- 2013 UT Southwestern Medical Center Library
- 2014 Dallas Mexican American Historical League (DMAHL)

**Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award**

Named for the first recipient of this award, it honors an individual for outstanding contributions to the genealogical community on a national level.

- 1994 Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck
- 1995 Desmond Walls Allen
- 1996 ....
- 1997 George Schweitzer
- 1998 John Philip Colletta
- 1999 Elizabeth Shown Mills
- 2000 David Rencher
- 2001 Tony Burroughs
- 2002 Pat Hatcher
- 2003 Marjorie Bays
- 2004 John V. Wylie
- 2005 Heather Williams
- 2006 ...
- 2007 John Frederick Dorman
- 2008 Joseph C. Anderson
- 2009 Mic Barnette
- 2010 Christine Rose
- 2011 Brent Holcomb
- 2012 Gary Boyd Roberts
- 2013 Helen F. M. Leary
- 2014 Robert Scott Davis

**President's Special Award (first presented in 2009)**

This award honors individuals or groups whose contributions to the society fall outside the criteria for other DGS Awards.

2009 Bill Dow

2010 Elizabeth Deihl

2011 ...

2012 Lea Markoff; Sam V. Akins

2013 Janine Khashab and Mary Rinaldi

2014 Gayla Bush

## LH&GS AND DGS BOOK AND WRITING AWARDS 1965–2015

by Marianne Szabo

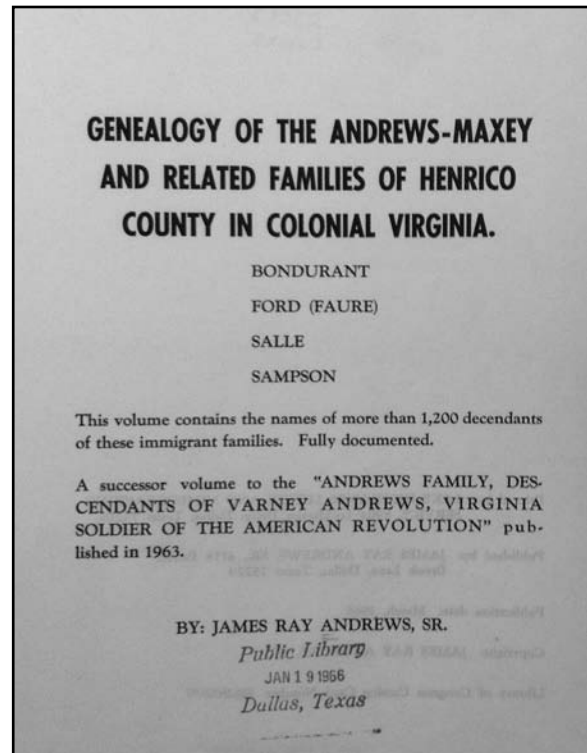
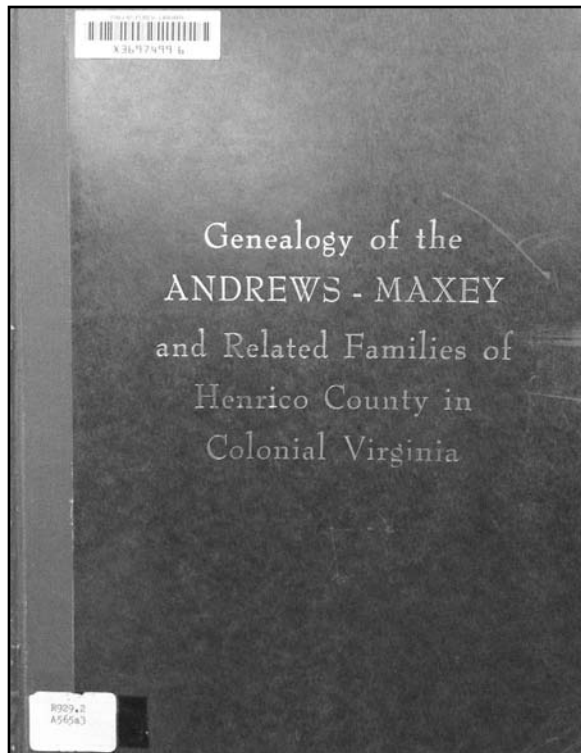
From its earliest beginnings, the Local History & Genealogical Society solicited articles from members for its publications, such as one that appeared in August, September, and October 1955—“Early Days in Dallas County,” contributed by Mrs. Geo. F. Carlisle.<sup>1</sup>

Through the years, members grew their genealogy knowledge and skills to the point that several had written entire bound books or printed manuscripts. To recognize these members’ accomplishments, in March 1965, LH&GS announced rules for the society’s first annual book award contest for members who had already published and printed books or manuscripts that fell into one of four categories (see the rules section, page 82).

Each book submitted was to become the property of the Dallas Public Library, and all manuscripts were eligible for publication in “The Quarterly.” Today many of these books can be found in the online library catalog.

The first two works honored with awards were:<sup>2</sup>

- First Award: *Genealogy of the Andrews-Massey and Related Families of Henrico County in the Colony of Virginia*, by James Ray Andrews.
- Honorable Mention: *Ledbetters from Virginia*, by Roy C. Ledbetter, authored jointly with William R. Ledbetter, Justus R. Moll, and James D. Tillman, Jr.



Cover and title page of *Genealogy of the Andrews-Massey and Related Families of Henrico County in the Colony of Virginia*, by James Ray Andrews, first winner of the LH&GS Book Award, 1965. Photos courtesy of Sandra Crowley.



### *Part III: Awards*

#### **1966 to 1999**

As summarized in the awards table (beginning on page 87), over the years the contest continued on an irregular basis. During this time there were only minor changes to the rules, while the name was changed in 1993 to “Writing Awards.”

The range of topics and surnames among the winners is striking, as is the fact that there were few repeat winners. Many of the winning publications in the book category were hundreds of pages long, implying years of research.

A major rules revision for the 1995 awards expanded the categories to three for books and seven for articles and outlined judging criteria (see the rules section, pages 83–84). It allowed an author to submit material to multiple categories. Entries had to score 90 percent or better to receive a First Place Certificate. For the first time the winners might win a cash award, and those who were not members of DGS could enter for a \$10 fee. When announced, there were five honorees in the Book/Manuscript Division, but there is no detail about which category applies. Patricia Law Hatcher swept the Articles Division, and received a Special Recognition Award for a pamphlet she coauthored with John V. Wylie.

Possibly the committee in charge of the contest felt three categories for books and seven for articles were too few, and too narrow in scope, because for the 1996 contest the rules established four divisions with three to four categories in each division.<sup>3</sup> The 1996 list of winners in the tables describes these divisions and categories in detail. No one swept a division, but Patricia Law Hatcher did receive awards in more than one category.

By 1998, honorees were not just named “Winner,” or “First Place,” but “Participant.” The distinction was made by the number of points the entries received. Also, there were now awards for both “documented” and “undocumented” family histories or genealogies and family history narratives.

#### **2000 to 2010**

Perhaps the committee and judges were exhausted by the complexity they had created, or they were concerned about the rigor of the research being done, because in the June/July 1999 “President’s Message,” Carole Chew Ruska wrote: “. . .the Writing Awards were dropped until a committee can study how that activity can be improved.”<sup>4</sup> In October, the DGS Board approved resuming them in 2000.

The awards would now be biennial, and as shown in the awards table, there were only four divisions, with Division I split into Division Ia and Ib. The intent was to make them more meaningful and easier to administer. An entry form available at the library and on the DGS website elaborated on all rules and evaluation procedures.<sup>5</sup> No copy of the entry form has been found.

The year 2000 had only one winner per category, but from 2002 to 2006 the number of entrants receiving an “Honorable Mention” increased from one or two per division to as many as eight. Whether the process had once again become too complicated, or interest in the awards had declined, in 2008 and 2010 there is no mention of either writing award rules or winners.

#### **2012 to 2015**

In 2011, following a DGS Board Retreat earlier that year, the Board added a new appointed position to the Board—Director of Publication Content.<sup>6</sup> A Publication Committee headed by that director was

formed, and among other actions, in 2012 it launched a new concept for the DGS Writing Contest, focusing on articles that tell the stories of our ancestors, not just document their genealogical data.

As more and more records are being digitized and placed online, the genealogical data in them are likely to be readily available to future generations, while stories are being lost every day because they are not being written down. Even Tom Jones of the National Genealogical Society has endorsed emphasizing “the story” over genealogical data.<sup>7</sup>

As described in the 2015 Writing Contest Rules and Guidelines, (see the rules section, pages 85–86) the contest embraces the entire genealogical community—DGS members and non-members, hobbyists and professionals. To attract entries, publicity is widespread to genealogy blog sites and societies, as well as the DGS website, and there are cash awards of \$500, \$300, and \$150 for First, Second, and Third Place winners.

There are no categories or divisions, with wide-ranging subjects permitted. Methodologies and case studies are not geographically limited, but all other types of articles must link the subject matter to North Texas to emphasize the objective of DGS to “collect, preserve, and index genealogical information relating to North Texas and its early history.” Previously published articles are not eligible.

### **Summary**

While researching this article I was struck by the effort the entrants made to document, in print, their ancestors’ genealogical data, particularly at the time when there were no digital records, no word processing software, and no genealogy database software. These family genealogists spent hours in archives, libraries, and other repositories going through books or microfilms, often with no index as a guide. They spent a considerable amount of money visiting distant repositories or requesting records by mail, which often took weeks or sometimes months to arrive.

Then they spent countless hours in front of a typewriter creating ascendant or descendant narratives, often with complex numbering systems, where a typo or other mistake was a major problem to correct. Pedigrees and family group sheets were handwritten, and before genealogy forms became standardized, they had to create the format for those as well.

DGS has an impressive fifty-year history of encouraging its members to write and publish books and articles about their ancestors. It is no secret that there are fewer people producing articles or books that eventually will be printed.

It is easy now to use software to record information and to convert it into an “instant” narrative that can be emailed to other interested genealogists or family members, or stored in the cloud. Some prefer to use personal blogs or websites to publish their research.

What happens when advances in technology make a digital document undecipherable, or your family member does not use the same software as you do, or when a digital depository ceases to exist? Worse, what happens to all the paper records you have in file cabinets or binders or to your print and digital photos and digital documents, when you no longer are capable of managing them? Who could even make sense of them?

Most important, who is writing the stories that make our ancestors not just a bunch of places and dates, but make them real people with thoughts and emotions, tribulations and joy, successes and failures?

### Methodology of Gathering Data for this Article

I read every issue of bound copies of publications produced by LH&GS and DGS from 1955 through 1965 that are in the 8th floor Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library, and also every issue of DGS newsletters from September 1976 through 2015 that are posted online.

In some years there was no mention of any book or writing awards at all. In others, the competition was announced, but no results were published, or the results were described as being published in the syllabi of DGS workshops where the winners were also announced. In the latter case, because the syllabi to our knowledge do not survive, there is no way of knowing what happened in those years.

The table beginning on page 87 gives either the winners, or other information for each year. If any members have information about years where we have none, please let us know at [pegasus@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:pegasus@dallasgenealogy.org).

I want to thank Shirley Sloat and Joanne Corney for their valuable assistance in reading and making copies of articles in bound copies of LH&GS and DGS publications from 1966 through 1976, not only about the book awards, but other “gems” they found about the history of the society.

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### Author Biography

Marianne Szabo is the past DGS director of publications content and is still a member of the DGS Publications Committee. She has ten years of experience as an editor for a business press magazine, three years of experience in marketing and public relations, and thirty years experience in business-to-business sales. She has been actively pursuing genealogy since 2007, and has had several articles published in various genealogical publications. Her main areas of research are in Germany, the Scandinavian countries, and Slovakia, as well as in numerous locations in the United States. Her family tells her it is handy to “have a genealogist in the family,” because when they have a question about family history they have a captive resource.

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### ENDNOTES

1. Mrs. Geo. F. Carlisle, “Early Days in Dallas County,” *Local History & Genealogical Society (Dallas, Texas)* 1 (August 1955 and September 1955 and October 1955): no page numbers.
2. “Congratulations,” *Local History & Genealogical Society (Dallas, Texas) Quarterly* 11 (December 1965): 94.
3. “1996 Writing Awards Competition,” *Dallas Genealogical Society Newsletter* 20 (January 1996): 8.
4. Carole Chew Ruska, “President’s Message,” *Dallas Genealogical Society Newsletter* 23 (June/July 1999): 91.
5. “Writing Competition Revamped,” *Dallas Genealogical Society Newsletter* 23 (December 1999): 176.
6. “New Board Appointee—Director of Publication Content,” *Dallas Genealogical Society Newsletter* 37 (November 2011): 25.
7. Thomas W. Jones, “Creating Family Histories for Future Generations,” lecture, Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference: Fort Wayne, Indiana, 2013, *Journey Through Generations*, audio CD or MP3 download (Austin, Texas: Federation of Genealogical Societies, 2013). Available via Fleetwood Onsite Conference Recording (<http://fleetwoodonsite.com>).

## BOOK AND WRITING AWARDS RULES: 1965, 1995 & 2015

### LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES RULES FOR ANNUAL BOOK AWARD, THE FIRST OF WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED MAY 15, 1965

The Local History & Genealogical Society announces the following rules for the Annual Book Award:

1. Qualifications for entry shall be membership in the Local History & Genealogy Society, in good standing.
2. The book contest shall be an annual affair with entries submitted by the first of April, and winners announced at the Local History & Genealogical Society's annual Genealogical Institute and Work Shop, which is held in May.
3. Recognition of winners or prizes shall be in the form of an Award, to be approved by the Executive Board, and presented at the annual Genealogical Institute and Work Shop Banquet or Luncheon.
4. There shall be the following categories:
  - a. Books with a minimum of 50 pages on the subject of a family history or genealogy.
  - b. Books with a minimum of 50 pages on some subject of local historical or genealogical interest. This would include such subjects as: How to go about genealogical research; a history of a city, county, or community; or a group genealogical study.
  - c. Manuscripts, containing a minimum of five pages, single spaced, on the subject of a family history or genealogy.
  - d. Manuscripts, containing a minimum of five pages, single spaced, on some subject of local historical or genealogical interest (see b. above)..
5. There shall be one winner in each category. If in the opinion of the judges, no entries are deserving of a prize in a particular category, then no prize shall be given that year. If in the opinion of the judges, entries other than the winner deserve special praise, then the judges shall give these entries "Honorable Mention."
6. Each book submitted shall become the property of the Dallas Public Library with the author retaining all publication rights. All manuscripts submitted shall be available for publication in the Local History & Genealogy Society's Quarterly, with the author retaining publication rights in the same or revised form.
7. Judges shall be three in number, annually appointed by the President, and ratified by the Executive Board; the chairman being the head of the Local, Texas History & Genealogy Department of the Dallas Public Library, and the other two judges being selected from outside the Society's membership, but being persons qualified to judge books and manuscripts.

Committee: Mr. Victory B. Gilman  
Mr. John Plath Green  
Mrs. Henry O. Jones  
Mrs. Harry Joseph Morris  
Mr. Banks McLaurin, Jr., Chairman

The first Annual Award will be presented at the Eleventh Annual Genealogical Institute and Work Shop by the Local History & Genealogical Society, May 15, 1965, at the Eleventh Annual Luncheon, 12:30 Noon, in the Embassy Ballroom of the Statler-Hilton Hotel, Dallas, Texas.

Entry rules for the LH&GS First Annual Book Award, reproduced from *Local History & Genealogical Society Quarterly*, March 1965, Volume XI, Number 1.

## 1995 DGS Writing Awards Competition

The Dallas Genealogical Society writing awards competition encourages the development of genealogical writing skills and is sponsored by Henington Publishing Company. Each category may have a winner receiving a cash award. In addition there may be a best of division awarded in the book/manuscript categories' one through three and in the articles categories' four through ten. The awards will be presented at the Spring Seminar in April 1995.

All entrants who grant permission will be listed in the DGS Spring Seminar Syllabus and their entries will be displayed during the day at the seminar. Entry forms may be picked up in the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library, at DGS meetings or may be requested by writing to the DGS post office box address.

### CATEGORIES:

#### Book/Manuscript

1. A minimum of fifty (50) pages on a family history or genealogy. A family history gives the documented genealogical and historical account of a family. A family genealogy is the documented history of the descent of a person or family from an ancestor or ancestors.

2. A minimum of fifty (50) pages on a family history narrative. A family history narrative gives the development of factual and undocumented accounts in proper chronological order as the story of a family.

3. A minimum of fifty (50) pages of historical or genealogical interest (includes but is not limited to abstracts, local and county history, and cemeteries, etc. on any locality).

#### Articles

4. A minimum of five (5) pages, single-spaced, on a documented family history or genealogy. The definition of a family history or genealogy is defined in category number one.

5. A minimum of five (5) pages, single-spaced, on a family history narrative. The definition of a family history narrative is defined in category number two.

6. A minimum of five (5) pages, single-spaced, of historical or genealogical interest. The definition of historical or genealogical interest is defined in category number three.

7. "My Most Elusive Ancestor," using one thousand (1000) words or less, double-spaced. Document the vital statistics of the ancestor; foot notes and end notes do not count as part of the one thousand (1000) words.

8. An article specifically written for a genealogy society newsletter. This includes but is not limited to information of general interest, how-to articles, description of a genealogical collection(s), material for a "Beginners Corner," etc. The article may have from five hundred to fifteen hundred (500 - 1500) words inclusive and should be double-spaced.

9. Source material or an article of general interest concerning any locality for a genealogy society quarterly, no word limit, double-spaced.

10. An article related to the 40th Anniversary of the Dallas Genealogy Society, 1955 - 1995 (includes but is not limited to memories, history of the society, member profiles, etc.), no word limit, double-spaced.

### COMPETITION RULES:

- There is no entry fee for DGS members. Nonmembers may participate for a fee of \$10 per entry.
- Entries must have been compiled or published within the past two years (February 1993 - February 1995).
- Entries must be received by 1 March 1995, and mailed to DGS, Attention: Writing Awards Competition, P.O. Box 12648, Dallas, TX 75225-0648. Or, entries may be hand delivered by 1 March to Madilyn Coen Crane, 614 Copper Ridge Drive, Richardson, Texas 75080-2310, Phone: (214) 783-9228.

Entry rules for the 1995 DGS Writing Awards Competition, reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, September-October 1994, Volume 18, Number 5.



- Each entry must be accompanied by the entry form on this page or a facsimile.
- A panel of three judges approved by the DGS Board will select the winners.
- All entries will be judged on such criteria as: originality in choice and treatment of subject matter, writing style (technique and approach in presenting subject), depth of research, evaluation of evidence, quality of source material used to document evidence, writing mechanics (form, grammar, punctuation, spelling, documentation) and presentation of subject matter.

Book/manuscript entries in category one (1) must include a table of contents, a numbering system and an index. In addition, if two of the three judges believe an entry should be placed in a different category, the judges' decision is final.

- There may be one winner in each category and a best of division winner in both the book/manuscript categories and the articles' categories. All entries scoring 90% or better will receive a first place certificate; all other entries will receive a certificate of participation. In the event that no entry scores 90% or better in a category, then no prize shall be given in that category. If, in the opinion of the judges, entries other than the best of division winners deserve special praise, then the judges shall give those entries a special recognition award. Certificates and judges' remarks for each entry may be picked up at the DGS exhibitor tables after the winners are announced Saturday, 19 April. All remaining certificates and critiques will be mailed to the respective entrants.
- All entries will become the property of DGS. At the completion of the competition all entries will be donated to the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library. The author shall retain all publication rights.
- The winner of each category, special recognition awards and first place winners in each of the categories will be announced at the DGS Annual Spring Seminar.

**DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
WRITING AWARDS**

Sponsored by  
Henington Publishing Company

**ENTRY FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Entry**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Number of Category Entered (see categories and competition rules for definition - entries without a designation will be decided by the judges).

\_\_\_ DGS Member \_\_\_ Nonmember entry  
(fee of \$10 per entry is enclosed)

May we list your name in the Spring Seminar Syllabus and/or the *DGS Newsletter*? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

May we print your entry in the article category in an issue of *The Dallas Quarterly* or the *DGS Newsletter*? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If you entered a book that is available for purchase (with the purchase price and how to order enclosed), would you like it reviewed in *The Dallas Quarterly*? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Date

Entry rules for the 1995 DGS Writing Awards Competition, reproduced from *DGS Newsletter*, September-October 1994, Volume 18, Number 5.





## Dallas Genealogical Society Writing Contest Rules and Guidelines

The Dallas Genealogical Society is sponsoring its 2015 Writing Contest for original material submitted by members and non-members, hobbyists and professionals. Length of articles may be from 1500 to 5000 words. Only original material not previously published elsewhere in any format is eligible. Winners are eligible for publication in *Pegasus: Journal of the Dallas Genealogical Society*.

### Subject Matter

While DGS has a goal of preserving Dallas history, topics may range beyond the Dallas city and county geographic area only as specified below:

- advanced methodologies and case studies emphasizing an approach to a problem are not limited by geography
- family histories and genealogies must be linked to North Texas (as defined below), including those families who came from or left to settle elsewhere than North Texas
- historically interesting events in North Texas must include a connection with a local family
- histories of ethnic or military groups, or of neighborhoods and houses, must be specific to North Texas

*North Texas: defined as the area that includes northern counties along the Red River from Fannin to Hardeman counties, eastern counties from Fannin to Limestone counties, southern counties from Limestone to Runnels counties, western counties from Runnels to Hardeman counties, with all interior counties within these boundaries; also counties which were included in the pre-Republic political boundaries of Nacogdoches.*

The historical time period covers from pre-Republic days to the 1940 census.

Source citations are required and must conform to the guidelines in *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, Elizabeth Shown Mills, editor (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2009). Style should conform to the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Use endnotes, not footnotes.

### Judging Criteria

- Accuracy: 1–15 points (no genealogical or historical errors, sources cited correctly)
- Clarity and writing: 1–20 points (clarity and flow of writing, organization, spelling and grammar)
- Overall impact and interest: 1–15 points (the article's depth, insight, and creativity)

Total possible points awarded per judge: 50. Articles must score at least 25 points to be eligible for a prize. All prizes may not be awarded. Judges' comments will be provided upon request.

Multiple entries are allowed, but only one award per person will be given. In case of a tie for a prize, the amount will be split between the winners of that prize.

**Awards**

First Prize: \$500  
Second Prize: \$300  
Third Prize: \$150

**Period for Submissions**

Entries will be accepted until April 30, 2015. Winners will be announced in July, 2015.

**Method of Entry**

Complete an entry form [www.dallasgenealogy.org/Info/Entry.pdf](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org/Info/Entry.pdf) and send as a separate attachment. DGS separates the Entry Form from the entry itself before forwarding to the judges in order to insure anonymity. Only the Entry Form should contain the author's name.

Submit articles in either Microsoft Word (doc, docx) or Rich Text Format. Use endnotes, not footnotes. Do not include your name in either headers or footers, and if a subject in the entry has the same surname as the author, replace that surname with *Lastname*.

Send images or charts as separate attachments (not embedded in the article) in JPEG, TIFF, or PDF format. Photos should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi, with a minimum size of 3"X5".

Identify images and charts on a separate page at the end of the article, together with suggested captions. Authors must obtain all permissions necessary to use images and supply copies of those permissions before publication.

By submitting articles, authors are giving DGS permission to publish.

Send entries via email only, with "DGS Writing Contest" in the subject line to: [editorial@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:editorial@dallasgenealogy.org).

## BOOK AND WRITING AWARD WINNERS

Compiled and transcribed by Marianne Szabo

The information below was compiled from various LH&GS and DGS publications and is transcribed here exactly as it appeared, including spelling, punctuation, and formatting.

Division and Category	Author	Title of Entry
<b>1965</b>		
Books with a Minimum of 50 pages: Family History or Genealogy	James Ray Andrews *First Place	<i>Genealogy of the Andrews-Maxey and Related Families of Henrico County in the Colony of Virginia</i>
Books with a Minimum of 50 pages: Family History or Genealogy	Roy C. Ledbetter (with Wm. R. Ledbetter, Justus R. Moll, and James D. Tillman, Jr.) *Honorable Mention	<i>Ledbetters from Virginia</i>
<b>1966</b>	<b>No entries</b>	
<b>1967</b>		
Books with a Minimum of 50 pages: Family History or Genealogy	Mrs. J. A. Morris, Jr. (Mildred Elizabeth Solley Morris )	<i>The Bevill-Burton Family History</i>
<b>1968</b>	<b>No mention of winners</b>	
<b>1969</b>		
Books with a Minimum of 50 pages: Family History or Genealogy	Nadine Lain *First Place (tie)	<i>William Watters, His Descendants and Related Families</i>
Books with a Minimum of 50 pages: Family History or Genealogy	Mrs. Jas. R. MacDonald (Margaret Taylor MacDonald) *First Place (tie)	<i>The Milward Family of Lexington, Kentucky, 1803–1869</i>
<b>1970–1973</b>	<b>No mention of Book Awards</b>	
<b>1974</b>	<b>1975 competition announced</b>	
<b>1975</b>		
Books with a Minimum of 50 pages: Family History	Paula Moyer Jung	<i>The Moyer Family: Descendants of Jacob and Christina Moyer of Naked Creek, Rockingham County, Virginia</i>
Books with a Minimum of 50 pages: Local History of a Community	Stella Vinson Bryant	<i>Pioneers of Yesteryear: Pleasant Mound “Public” Cemetery and Memorial Park, 1848–1973</i>

<b>Division and Category</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Title of Entry</b>
Manuscript – minimum of five pages: Family History	Dr. Opal Hinsey White	<i>Genealogy of Dr. John Butler, William Boynton or Byington and Allied Families</i>
<b>1976</b>	<b>No mention of Book Awards</b>	
<b>1977</b>	<b>Announced in January, but no mention of winners</b>	
<b>1978</b>	<b>No mention of Book Awards</b>	
<b>1979</b>		
Not stated – 362 pages	1. Mary Ann Beadles	<i>A History of Four Jackson Purchase Families (Harris-Beadles-Browder-Guerrant)</i>
Not stated – 35 pages	2. Anna Brown Baker & Anne A. Cochran	<i>Memories Live On and On (the story of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary of the Cockran Chapel United Methodist Church 1856–1876)</i>
Not stated – 439 pages	3. William Lusk Crawford	<i>Ancestors &amp; Friends (Crawford and Blount Families)</i>
<b>1980</b>		
Not stated – number of pages not known	Helen Lu and Gwen Neumann	<i>Revolutionary War Bible, Family and Marriage Records Gleaned from Pension Applications, Vol. 1 (3700 full name index)</i>
<b>1981</b>	<b>Announced in March, but no mention of winners</b>	
<b>1982</b>		
Not stated – 55 pages	Allison Cheney	<i>A Legacy of Love (author's personal ancestry)</i>
<b>1983</b>	<b>Announced in February, but no mention of winners</b>	
<b>1984</b>	<b>No mention of Book Awards</b>	
<b>1985</b>		
Books with a minimum of 50 pages: Family History or Genealogy	Doris Ross Brock Johnston *First Place	<i>Wilks &amp; Young Families, Texas Pioneers</i>
Books with a minimum of 50 pages: Family History or Genealogy	Sarah Payne Foxworth and Michal Martin Farmer *Honorable Mention	<i>Foxworth, Bush, Payne, Bledsoe and Allied Lineages</i>
Books with a minimum of 50 pages: Local or Genealogical interest	Helen S. Stinson	<i>Land Entry Book, Greenbrier Co., W.Va.</i>
Manuscript with a minimum of 5 pages: Family History or Genealogy	Terence G. Walsh	<i>The Chases of Independence</i>

Part III: Awards

Division and Category	Author	Title of Entry
<b>1986</b>		
Family History or Genealogy	Gene Boswell *First Place	<i>Descendants of Edward Boswell</i>
Family History or Genealogy	Eunice Newbold Clark *Honorable Mention	<i>Clarks from Pennsylvania and Allied Families from Early 1700s to 1984</i>
Genealogical Source Material	Joyce Martin Murray	<i>Deed Abstracts of Warren County, Kentucky, 1797–1821</i>
<b>1987</b>	<b>Announced in February, but no mention of winners</b>	
<b>1988</b>		
Not stated – 209 pages	Jeanne Tabb and Margaret Ann Thetford	<i>Bishop Garrett’s Journal, Texas, 1875–1890</i>
Not stated – 24 pages	Terence G. Walsh	<i>James Joseph Walsh: from the Liffey to the Mississippi and Beyond</i>
<b>1989</b>		
Excellence in Publication	Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck	<i>Virginia’s Colonial Soldiers</i>
Books with a minimum of 50 pages: Family History or Genealogy	Barbara J. Cox	<i>Gregorys of Indian Territory</i>
Books with a minimum of 50 pages: Local or Genealogical Interest	Jeanette Bland	<i>African-Americans in the Early Records of Collin County, Texas</i>
Manuscript – minimum of five pages: Local History or Genealogy	John Alan Hord	<i>Life in Texas, 1845–1914</i>
Manuscript – minimum of five pages: Family History or Genealogy	Sue Harris	<i>Matthias and Maria Margretha Theiss of Grunbach, Germany and Some of their Descendants and Related Families in America</i>
<b>1990</b>		
Books with a minimum of 50 pages: Family History or Genealogy	Lt. Col. George H. Carlton *First Place	<i>John Carlton of Orange County and Albemarle County, Virginia, and Some of His Descendants, 1720–1989</i>
Books with a minimum of 50 pages: Family History or Genealogy	Michal Martin Farmer *Honorable Mention	<i>Adam Martin 1755–1835 and Thomas Roy Musick 1757–1942, St. Louis County, Missouri Pioneers, Their Ancestors, Descendants and Related Families, Hildebrand, Peira, Roy and Neville</i>
Books with a minimum of 50 pages: Local History or Genealogy	Jim Monaghan	<i>The Trans-Cedar Tragedy (Triple Lynching in Henderson County, Texas)</i>

<b>Division and Category</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Title of Entry</b>
Manuscript – minimum of five pages: Family History or Genealogy	Patricia Law Hatcher	<i>Thomas Almand of Virginia and Some Descendants</i>
Manuscript – minimum of five pages: Local History or Genealogy	Renee Jackson Smith *First Place	<i>History of the DAR—The First 100 Years</i>
Manuscript – minimum of five pages: Local History or Genealogy	Linda Shaddock Rogers *Honorable Mention	<i>Clark County, Arkansas Births, Marriages, Deaths of Arkadelphia and Environs as Recorded 1875–1897 by James A. Fortson</i>
<b>1991</b>		
Books with a minimum of 50 pages: Family History or Genealogy	Imogene M. Boswell	<i>Descendants of Claiborne B. May: South Carolina, St. Clair County, Alabama, Talledega County, Alabama, Greene County, Alabama</i>
Books with a minimum of 50 pages: Local History or Genealogy	Linda Shaddock Rogers	<i>Clark County, Arkansas, Arkadelphia and Environs, A Journal By James A. Fortson, Recorded 1875–1897</i>
Manuscript – minimum of five pages: Family History or Genealogy	Hollie F. Faulhaber	<i>Hollie Allie Pennington Family</i>
Manuscript – minimum of five pages: Local History or Genealogy	Michal Martin Farmer	<i>Macon Telegraph, Macon, Georgia, Volume I, #1–Volume 6, #35</i>
<b>1992</b>		
Books with a minimum of 50 pages: Family History or Genealogy	Dawn Powell Cartwright	<i>Thomas Powell in Chester County, Pennsylvania, 1682 and Some of His Descendants</i>
Books with a minimum of 50 pages: Local History or Genealogy	Nova A. Lemons	<i>Pioneers of Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory</i>
Manuscript – minimum of five pages: Local History or Genealogy	Rhonda L. Morris	<i>James R. Rylie, His Descendants and Rylie Prairie Dallas County, Texas.</i>
<b>1993</b>		
Books with a minimum of 50 pages: Family History or Genealogy	Brenda Burns Kellow	<i>Charles C. Stibbens: soldier of the Battle of San Jacinto, Citizen of the Republic of Texas</i>
Books with a minimum of 50 pages: Local History or Genealogy	Jim Monaghan	<i>Tool Cemetery, Henderson County, Texas</i>
Manuscript – 1000 words or less “My Favorite Ancestor”	Ramona Honan	<i>Nancy Emeline Caldwell Lauderdale</i>
<b>1994</b>	<b>Announced in January, but no mention of winners</b>	



Part III: Awards

Division and Category	Author	Title of Entry
<b>1995</b>		
Book/Manuscript Division	Leo G. Knezek *Winner	<i>Knezek Heritage: from Moravia to Texas</i>
	L. Malcolm "Mike" Basham * Winner	<i>Johnson County Texas 1860 Federal Census</i>
	Margaret Pearce Anderson *Special Recognition	<i>Echoes from Yesterday</i>
	Michal Martin Farmer *First Place Certificate	<i>The Genealogy of the Webster, Martin, Dozier, Staples &amp; Starke Families of Wilkes County, Georgia</i>
	Glen and Hallie Garner *First Place Certificate	<i>Arkansas Travelers</i>
Articles Division	Patricia Law Hatcher *Winner	<i>Who Was the Wife of Deacon Edward Putnam, Accuser in the Salem Witchcraft Trials?</i>
	Patricia Law Hatcher *Winner	<i>Revolutionary War Pensions: Selected and Nonselected Records</i>
	Patricia Law Hatcher *Winner	<i>Serendipity Comes to Those Who Have Prepared</i>
	Patricia Law Hatcher *Winner	<i>Those Dull, Boring Land and Court Records</i>
	Patricia Law Hatcher *First Place Certificate	<i>A Multiplicity of Marys</i>
	Patricia Law Hatcher *First Place Certificate	<i>Danish Roots</i>
	Patricia Law Hatcher *First Place Certificate	<i>Building a Virginia Neighborhood</i>
	Patricia Law Hatcher *First Place Certificate	<i>Problem-Solving by Hypothesis</i>
	Pat Hatcher and John V. Wylie *Special Recognition	<i>Indexing Family Histories, Simple Steps for a Quality Product (pamphlet)</i>
<b>1996</b>		
<i>Division I: Unpublished Articles (10,000 words or less)</i>		
Category 1 – Documented family history or genealogy	Rosemary Rick *Winner	"Catherine Rick 1855–1936 and Her Family"

<b>Division and Category</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Title of Entry</b>
Category 2 – Undocumented family history narrative	Donna Ward Smiley *Winner	“Pieces and Patterns: A Life Quilt”
Category 3 – General Genealogical Interest	Patricia Law Hatcher *Winner	“In Search of a Black Sheep: Ferdinand Augustus Halsey”
	Hallie Price Garner *First Place	“Shot by Revenue Agents: The 1890 Special Census of Union Veterans and Widows, Hancock, Tennessee”
<i>Division II – Published Articles (10,000 words or less)</i>	<i>No Entries</i>	
<i>Division III – Bound Books (Hard or Perfect Bound Books)</i>		
Category 1 – Documented family history or genealogy	Amy Lerner Garner *Winner	<i>The Descendants of Adrian and Susanna Raymakers Schellens of Belgium and New York, 1691–1994</i>
	Sheila White Huckaby *First Place	<i>Frederik Christiansen and Christine Hansen (Hansdatter) and Their Descendants: A Danish Family</i>
Category 2 – Documented family history narrative	No entries	
Category 3 - Undocumented family history	Betty Ann Henley Vollenweider *Winner	<i>Memories Revisited, The Life and Family of W.W. “Bill” Henley, 1905–1982 and Reba Elisabeth Miars Henley, 1905–1994: Their Lives, Descendants and Ancestors</i>
	Imogene Rowin Lee *First Place	<i>The Rowin Family...to 1995: “Out of the Cotton Patch, the Early Years</i>
Category 4 - A book of historical or genealogical interest	Rosemary Rick *Winner	<i>Company G: Third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, Spanish American War</i>
	Patricia Law Hatcher *First Place	<i>Producing a Quality Family History</i>
	John Allen Hord *First Place	<i>Early Day Adventures of a Texas Boy Scout Troop</i>
	Edward Joseph Klaas *First Place	<i>Gluckstadt, Madison County, Mississippi: A History of a German-American Catholic Farming Community in the Deep South</i>
Category 5 - A book of abstracted material	Gwendolyn Lynette Hester *Winner	<i>Freedmen and Colored Marriage Records, 1865–1890</i>
<i>Division IV – Manuscripts &amp; Informally Bound Books (greater than 10,000 words)</i>		
Category 1 – Documented family genealogy	No entries	

Part III: Awards

Division and Category	Author	Title of Entry
Category 2 – Documented family history	Terry Bradshaw O'Neill *Winner	<i>Memoirs of John Moore, Esq. And The Case for the Corrected Lineage of Hon. John Moore</i>
Category 3 - Undocumented family history	No entries	
Category 4 - A book of historical or genealogical interest	No entries	
Category 5 - A book of abstracted material	No entries	
<b>1997</b>		
Unpublished Articles: Documented family History or Genealogy	Barbara Roberts Baylis	Drum Major Isaac Organ and Drummers in the American Revolution
Published Articles: General Genealogical Interest	Hallie Price Garner *First Place	A Series of Beginner's Corner Articles for the DGS Newsletter, December 1996/July 1997
Bound Books: Documented Family Genealogy	Walter L. Robertson	Four Trails to Texas
Bound Books: Documented Family Genealogy	Elizabeth Linton Cosgrove Johnson	Cosgrove Lines, Lore and Legacy
Bound Books: Documented Family Genealogy	Vincent Ira Correll, Jr. Ed.D.	Correll Chronicles: The Ancestors and Descendants of the Correll Families of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania: Through Four Hundred Fifty Years from the 1500's through 1996
Bound Books: Documented Family Genealogy	Dyane Monroe Dye Wood *First Place	The Wilcox-Luke Genealogy
Bound Books: Documented Family Genealogy	Judge Edward F. Butler, Sr. *First Place	The Descendants of Thomas Pincerna Progenitor of the Butler Family
Bound Books: Documented Family Genealogy	Dudley Ferrell	The Ferrell Family Circle and Related Families
Bound Books: Documented Family History Narrative	Eunice Newbold Clark	Six American Colonists. Thomas Newbold. William Rodney. George Hufford. Eberhard Ream. Edward Painter. Richard Bridgeford and Their Descendants
Bound Books: Documented Family History Narrative	Morris Ashcroft Thurston *First Place	Tora Thurston: The History of a Norwegian Pioneer
Bound Books: Undocumented Family History Narrative	By: Cecil Oliver Burton Compiled by: Olivia Burton Harrington	The Wagon Master
Bound Books: Book of Abstracted Material	John Pitts Launey and F. Edward Wright *First Place	Early Church Records of Delaware County, Pennsylvania

<b>Division and Category</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Title of Entry</b>
Manuscripts and Informally Bound Books: Documented Family Genealogy	Patricia D. Mitchell	Ancestors and Descendants of Morgan Orlando Utt and Olivia Rebecca (Protzman) Utt. Monongalia Co. WV
Manuscripts and Informally Bound Books: Undocumented Family History Narrative	Joyce Butler Estridge	From the Alps to the Appalachians: The Descendants of Emmanuel Gottlieb Betler of Helvetia. West Virginia
Manuscripts and Informally Bound Books: Book of Abstracted Material	Root Seekers Genealogical Society	Henderson County Texas Tenth Federal Population Census
Manuscripts and Informally Bound Books: Book of Abstracted Material	Hallie Price Garner	Mulberry Gap Association of Baptists 1879–1996 Index of Obituary Subjects in Annual Minutes: A Finding Aid
<b>1998</b>		
<i>Division I</i> - Category 1, Unpublished Articles – Documented Family History or Genealogy	Gerard R. Dobson *Participant	<i>Ezra Bowman of Oxford Massachusetts</i>
<i>Division I</i> - Category 2, Unpublished Articles – Undocumented Family History or Genealogy	Rosemary Rick *Participant	<i>Union Widows of the Civil War: A Study of Three Women</i>
<i>Division I</i> – Category 3, Unpublished Articles – General Genealogical Interest	Lisa McKinney *First Place	<i>Coming to Understand Sources: A Case Study in “Proper” Genealogy</i>
<i>Division II</i> – Category 3, Published Articles – General Genealogy Interest	Hallie Price Garner *Participant	<i>Marriage Records from the Obituaries in the Mulberry Gap Association of Baptists Minutes 1893–1922</i>
<i>Division III</i> – Category 1, Bound Books – Documented Family Genealogy	Rosemary Rick *First Place	<i>Conrad Neun and his Descendants 1849–1920, St. Louis</i>
<i>Division III</i> – Category 2, Bound Books – Documented Family History Narrative	George Pettett *Participant	<i>Legends, Plain Truths, and Probabilities: A Crawford/McWilliams Chronicle</i>
<i>Division III</i> – Category 4, Bound Books – Book of Historical or Genealogical Interest	Della Gray Barthelmas *First Place	<i>The Signers of the Declaration of Independence: A Biographical and Genealogical Reference</i>
<i>Division III</i> – Category 5, Bound Books – Book of Abstracted Material	Jim Monaghan *First Place	<i>Divorces – Dallas County, Texas 1846–1905</i>
<i>Division IV</i> – Category 2, Manuscripts and Informally Bound Books – Documented Family History Narrative	Art Hendon *Participant	<i>Georgia-Alabama Hendon Family History</i>

Part III: Awards

<b>Division and Category</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Title of Entry</b>
<i>Division IV</i> –Category 3, Manuscripts and Informally Bound Books – Undocumented Family History Narrative	Sherry Butler *Participant	<i>A Century of Living: The Story of Grandma Ming</i>
	Mary Noel Peters Wood *Participant	<i>An Ordinary Hero, My Dad: Joseph Franklin Peters, M.D. 1909–1980</i>
<i>Division IV</i> – Category 4, Manuscripts and Informally Bound Books – Book of Historical or Genealogical Interest	Gerald R. Post *Participant	<i>First Guide to Civil War Genealogy and Research</i>
<b>1999</b>	<b>Suspended</b>	
<b>2000</b>	<b>First Biennial Contest</b>	
<i>Division I</i> – Family History	John M. Price	<i>The Tennants of Monongalia</i>
<i>Division II</i> – Articles or Books of Historical or Genealogical Interest	Greta Ray Lothrop Hockersmith	<i>Ancestors and Descendants of Stephen Poe Neal</i>
<i>Division III</i> – Family Stories, Memories, Character Sketches	Justine Miller	<i>The Brown-Warner Letters</i>
<i>Division IV</i> – Book of Compiled Material Church, Court, Census, Cemetery Abstracted from Digital Records	Shirley Remnant Sloat	<i>Historical List of Justices of the Peace, Dallas County, 1846–2000</i>
<b>2002</b>		
<i>Division I</i> – Family History	Hallie Gamer *First Place	<i>Henry Price, Jr.</i>
	George Pettett *Second Place	<i>Pettett &amp; Pettit: This Family Business</i>
	Joseph Roark *Third Place	<i>Joseph Roark—His Life and Times</i>
<i>Division II</i> – Articles or Books of Historical or Genealogical Interest	Ed Millis *Honorable Mention	<i>One Way to Write Your Personal Story</i>
<i>Division III</i> – Family Stories, Memories, Character Sketches	Terri B. O’Neill *Honorable Mention	<i>The Honorable Richard Stanford, Congressman</i>
<i>Division III</i> – Family Stories, Memories, Character Sketches	Selenda Billington *Honorable Mention	<i>The Frank C. Pearson &amp; Tellie Ward Story</i>
<i>Division IV</i> – Book of Compiled Material Church, Court, Census, Cemetery Abstracted from Digital Records	Weldon Hudson *Honorable Mention	<i>Pioneers Rest Cemetery, Fort Worth, Tarrant Co., TX</i>

<b>Division and Category</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Title of Entry</b>
<b>2004</b>		
<i>Division I – Family History</i>		
Category 1 – Less than 10,000 words	No entries	
Category 2 – More than 10,000 words	Marge Stockton *First Place	<i>Hendrens, Dunhams, and their Kin, The Paternal Ancestors of Stacy Mae Hendren Stockton</i>
	Dwight Albert Sharpe *Honorable Mention	<i>Felix Benedict Dixon, A San Augustine County, Texas Pioneer and a Republic of Texas Citizen</i>
	Marilyn Thomas *Honorable Mention	<i>Mercedee</i>
<i>Division II – Articles or Books of Historical or Genealogical Interest</i>	Terri Bradshaw O’Neill *First Place	<i>William Bradshaw of Orange and Alamance Counties, North Carolina: A Case Study</i>
	Rosemary M. Schoolfield *Honorable Mention	<i>Lewis McClain, Georgia Pioneer—An Overview</i>
	Mary Noel Peters Wood *Honorable Mention	<i>An Ordinary Hero, My Dad—Joseph Franklin Peters, M.D. 1909–1980</i>
<i>Division III – Family Stories, Memories, Character Sketches</i>	Anna Rose Barry *First Place	<i>Meet the Barry Family in Rosita, Colorado</i>
	Lela Evans *Honorable Mention	<i>Michael Wilburn McCarley</i>
	Philip Jones, Jr. *Honorable Mention	<i>The Toliver Family Tree</i>
<i>Division IV – Book of Compiled Material Church, Court, Census, Cemetery Abstracted from Digital Records</i>	Judy Allen Knight *First Place	<i>Historic W.V.S. Allen Cemetery, Tarrant County, Texas</i>
	Alan Miller *Honorable Mention	<i>Middle Tennessee’s Forgotten Children, Apprentices from 1784 to 1902</i>
	Ed Millis *Honorable Mention	<i>Trinity Farm and El Rancho Grande Cemetery Burials</i>
	Peggy Sutherlin *Honorable Mention	<i>1880 Upshur County, Texas Census</i>
	Barbara Kerfoot Smyth Turner *Honorable Mention	<i>Letters from Home: The Letters and Lives of Ludlow St. Claire Smyth and Lucie Webb Laws</i>
<i>Division IV – Book of Compiled Material Church, Court, Census, Cemetery Abstracted from Digital Records</i>	Laurie G. Wharton *Honorable Mention	<i>Diaries of S. S. Wright of New Haven, Vermont, Written in the Vermont Register &amp; Farmers’ Almanacs 1857–1899</i>



Part III: Awards

Division and Category	Author	Title of Entry
<b>2006</b>		
<i>Division I – Family History</i>		
Category 1 – Less than 10,000 words	No entries	
Category 2 – More than 10,000 words	Rosemary M. Schoolfield *First Place	<i>Elliott Pioneers: From Whence We Came: Vol.2: The Children and Grandchildren of James Middleton Elliott and Sarah Elizabeth Clardy</i>
	Temple Pouncey *Honorable Mention	<i>Descendants of Anthony Pouncey</i>
	Melvin E. Brewer *Honorable Mention	<i>Waggoner and Related Families of Middle Tennessee</i>
	John M. Price *Honorable Mention	<i>The Tennants of Monongalia, Vol. II</i>
	Hallie Price Garner *Honorable Mention	<i>Arkansas Travelers II</i>
<i>Division II – Articles or Books of Historical or Genealogical Interest</i>	John and Barb Wylie *First Place	<i>125 Years in the Heart of the City: First United Methodist Church, Grand Prairie, Texas, 1880–2005</i>
<i>Division III – Family Stories, Memories, Character Sketches</i>	Anna Rose Barry *First Place	<i>Growing Up in Colorado: The Early Years</i>
	Hyatt Creek, Jr. *Honorable Mention	<i>Reminiscences of Hyatt Creek, Sr.</i>
	Jacqueline Frank Strickland *Honorable Mention	<i>Two German Surnames and Fourteen Different Spellings</i>
	Frances Quigley *Honorable Mention	<i>Success Researching Newsbank Online</i>
	Marge Stockton *Honorable Mention	<i>Sara Jane Kelly: mystery and enigma</i>
	David B. Dibrell *Honorable Mention	<i>Henry Eustice McCullouch</i>
	Richard Titley *Honorable Mention	<i>The English Connection</i>
	Janet Khashab *Honorable Mention	<i>Abuela Josefa Castaño and the Family Tree</i>
	Mary L. Pickens *Honorable Mention	<i>Prairie Sloopers</i>
<i>Division IV – Book of Compiled Material Church, Court, Census, Cemetery Abstracted from Digital Records</i>	Terri B. O'Neill *First Place	<i>John Moore, Esq. (1745–1838) of New York City: His Writings and Memoranda</i>

<b>Division and Category</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Title of Entry</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>No mention of Writing Awards Rules or Winners</b>	
<b>2010</b>	<b>No mention of Writing Awards Rules or Winners</b>	
<b>2012</b>		
First Place - \$500	Karen Claridge Walker	“Francis A. Claridge (1824–1887)”
Second Place - \$300	Debbie Parker Wayne, CG <sup>SM</sup>	“Bailing, Bigamy, Brother Love”
Third Place (Tie) - \$150	Loretta L. Evans, AG <sup>®</sup>	“Sarah Luse Larimer, 1836–1913: Indian Captive, Photographer and Businesswoman
Third Place (Tie) - \$150	Barbara A. Ware, PhD	“Chronology of Land Lot 128, District 20, Baldwin (Morgan County), Georgia and How It Led to Polly Ware’s Maiden Name
<b>2013</b>		
First Place - \$500	Jo Archer Arnsperger	“From Kentucky to Texas: The Story of One Pioneer Family”
Second Place - \$300	Charles Curtis	“A Double Murder in Mills County”
Third Place - \$150	Not awarded	
<b>2014</b>		
First Place - \$500	Deborah Harvey and Gary Wood	“As the Angus Roam”
Second Place - \$300	Not awarded	
Third Place - \$150	Not Awarded	
<b>2015</b>		
First Place - \$500	Diane Gawedzinski	“Rising—the Story of John Wesley Barnes and Edna Mollie Crawford”
Second Place: \$300	RL Canady	“Tracing Polly’s Life from Slavery to Freedom”
Third Place: \$150	Not awarded	

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Editor's Note: Many females mentioned in this issue often appear with multiple surname-like names following their given names. In cases where there is no genealogical data to indicate if these names are middle, maiden, married, or a combination thereof, they are indexed by the final surname, followed by a comma with the given name and any sequential names.

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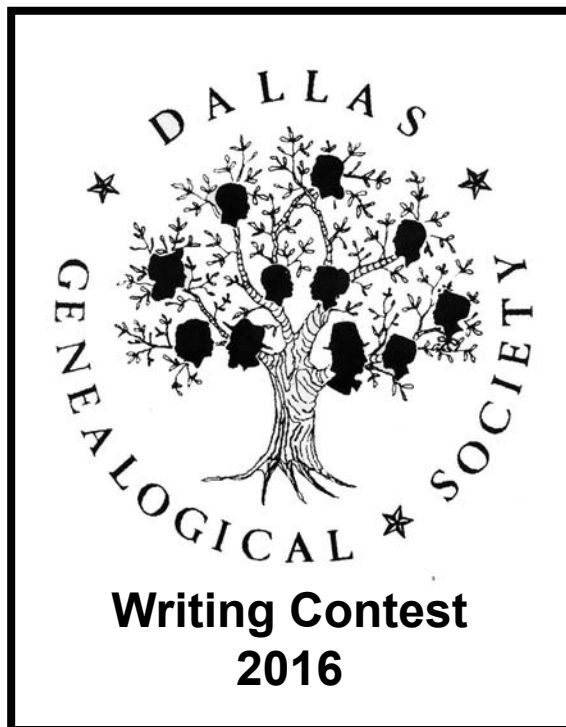
## 2016 DGS Writing Contest Opens January 1; Closes March 31

This commemorative issue of *Pegasus* showcases books and articles that have won awards in DGS writing competitions over the years. Here is your chance to join that group, *and* be paid for your efforts: just enter the 2016 DGS Writing Contest that opens January 1, 2016.

The contest is open to both members and non-members of DGS as well as hobbyists and professionals. Only original material *not previously published elsewhere in any format* is eligible. Entries will be accepted January 1 through March 31, 2016. Winners will be announced in May 2016.

While DGS has a goal of preserving Dallas history, subject matter for the competition may range beyond the local geographic area. Articles may include

- advanced methodologies and case studies (not limited by geography)
- family histories and genealogies, particularly those linked to North Texas, including those who came from or left to settle elsewhere
- transcriptions, abstracts or indexes of record groups (including family records) not yet filmed or digitized that relate to Dallas or North Texas
- ethnic, house, or military histories related to Dallas and surrounding counties.



Entries will be judged on accuracy, clarity of writing, and overall impact and interest. First prize is \$500; second prize is \$300 and third prize is \$100. Complete Rules are available at: <http://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/publications/pegasus>

Winning articles are eligible to be published in *Pegasus: Journal of the Dallas Genealogical Society*. Past winning entries can be read in the 2013, 2014 and 2015 Research Issues of *Pegasus*, which members can access through the DGS website. Use them as examples of outstanding research and writing.

Send entries via email only, with “DGS Writing Contest” in the subject line to: [pegasus@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:pegasus@dallasgenealogy.org)

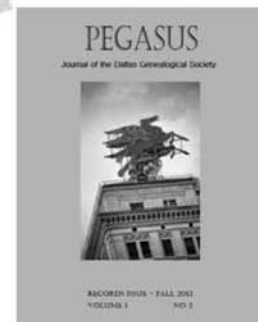
We all make promises to ourselves about projects we want to complete. Don't let another year go by without writing part of your family history. The contest is open for three months - every year there are many entries that come in the last two weeks of the Contest – we wonder how many other entries never were sent because their authors kept putting it off – don't let that be said of your entry.—*DGS Publications Committee*



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Visit <http://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/publications/pegasus/>

# Join the Dallas Genealogical Society

**EDUCATE ■ COLLECT ■ PRESERVE**

Join online at [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org)

- Monthly educational presentations
- Preservation and publication of local records
- Support the purchase of materials and equipment for the Dallas Public Library
- Access to Members Only section of Award-winning website
- Member discounts for fee-based seminars presented by nationally-recognized speakers
- Annual awards to the genealogical community
- Timely information dissemination via social media

Founded in 1955, the Dallas Genealogical Society is the oldest continuously functioning society of its kind in Texas.



Dallas Genealogical Society  
Mailing address: P. O. Box 12446,  
Dallas, TX 75225-0446  
Voice Mail: 1-866-968-2347  
Web site: [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org)  
Facebook: Dallas Genealogical Society  
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## FOLLOW THE DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ONLINE

Website – <http://www.dallasgenealogy.org>  
Blog – <http://www.dallasgenealogy.org/wp/>



## **Dallas Genealogical Society**

P.O. Box 12446, Dallas, TX 75225-0446

www.dallasgenealogy.org

Email: questions@dallasgenealogy.org

### **Objectives**

Founded in 1955, the Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS) is the oldest organization of its kind in Texas. Its objectives are:

- To educate by creating, fostering, and maintaining interest in genealogy
- To assist and support the Genealogy Section of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas, Texas
- To collect, preserve, and index genealogical information relating to North Texas and its early history

### **DGS Meetings**

Dallas Genealogical Society meetings, which are free and open to the public, are held monthly (except for June-August). Each begins with a social hour and a business meeting, followed by presentations on genealogical and historical topics. Meetings are held in the plaza level Auditorium and East/West Rooms of the Central Library, 1515 Young Street, in downtown Dallas. Guarded parking is available in the garage beneath the library (enter on Wood Street, one block north of Young Street). See the Calendar tab on the DGS website for specific information on topics, time, and location.

### **Special Interest Groups**

DGS has many special interest groups (SIGs) that meet at various dates, times, and locations throughout the Central Library. For details, see the Events tab on the DGS website and select Special Interest Groups.

### **Journal**

*Pegasus: Journal of the Dallas Genealogical Society* continues the traditions of its predecessors, *The Dallas Journal*, published from 1995 through 2012, and *The Dallas Quarterly*, published from 1955 through 1994. Issues of *The Dallas Quarterly* published from 1990 through 1994 are available as PDF files on the DGS website at Publications/Quarterlies. Digital copies of *The Dallas Journal* from 1995 through 2012 are available on the DGS website at Publications/Journals, and at the University of North Texas's Portal to Texas History website (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/DLSJL/browse>). Digital copies of *Pegasus* from 2013 to 2015 are available to members only on the DGS website at Publications/Pegasus.

### **Membership Benefits**

DGS is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation. Individuals, libraries, and societies may apply for membership. Membership is \$35 per year for an individual, \$40 for a household. Members receive discounted fees for the Spring and Fall Lectures and the Summer Institute, free copies of *Pegasus*, access to reduced-fee DNA testing by Family Tree DNA, and access to the DGS Surname Registry List. See the DGS website at address above for details.