

What's New at the Family History Center?

March 14th

10:00 a.m.

Mahon Public Library



SOUTH PLAINS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 37, No. 3

March 2009

MARY ANDERSON DIRECTOR

Mary Anderson was born in Ben Wheeler, Van Zandt, Co., TX. She graduated from Midwestern University [now Midwestern State University] in Wichita Falls in 1967, with a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education. She is presently in her 42nd year of teaching and not quite ready to retire. Mary married Keith Anderson in Wichita Falls in 1964 and they have two daughters, one son, and five grandchildren.

She is active in the Texas State Teachers Association, Lubbock Educator's Association, South Plains Genealogy Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, and First Families of Van Zandt County

Mary became interested in family research when her husband became active in the Sons of the American Revolution. She researches the Germany, Madole, Sides and Nixon families. She is serving her second term as a Director for SPGS.

AN APOLOGY!!

I would like to apologize to Shirley for getting her name wrong in the February Newsletter. The SPGS Vice-President is SHIRLEY BOYCE not BOYD. Sorry Shirley - guess it was one of those Senior Moments! YSP

MARCH PROGRAM

March 14, 2009

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Mahon Public Library
Community Room

SPEAKER: Roger Ward, Volunteer at the Family History Center and Researcher

WHAT'S NEW AT THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

If you have not researched at the Family History Center in a while, or have never used the center, you have missed some valuable information. Not only can you order film from Salt Lake City but there are several sites which you can use on your computer, at home, to research your family history. This program will give you a chance to learn what is available for research.

Our meetings are open to the public. You only need to have an interest in genealogy research. Come and bring a friend and have coffee and refreshments.

DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

GAY E. CARTER ON GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Saturday, March 21, 2009

9:30am - 4:30pm

The J. Erik Jonsson Central Dallas Public Library

1515 Young Street, Dallas, Texas

www.dallasgenealogy.com or 1-866-968-2347

What is the Difference Between http and https?

The main difference between <http://> and <https://> is it's all about keeping you secure. HTTP stands for **H**yper **T**ext **T**ransport **P**rotocol, which is a language for information to be passed back and forth between web servers and clients. The important thing is the letter S which stands for "**Secure**". If you visit a website or webpage, and look at the address in the web browser, it will likely begin with the following: <http://>. This means that the website is talking to your browser using the regular 'unsecure' language. In other words, it is possible for someone to "eavesdrop" on your computer's conversation with the website. If you fill out a form on the website, someone might see the information you send to that site. This is why you never ever enter your credit card number in an http website! But if the web address begins with <https://>, that basically means your computer is talking to the website in a secure code that no one can eavesdrop on. You understand why this is so important, right? If a website requests credit card information, check if the web address begins with <https://>. If it doesn't, do not enter sensitive information like a credit card number.

Free Passenger Lists

www.castlegarden.org - The nonprofit Battery Conservancy created this searchable index to 10 million passengers landing in New York from 1830 to 1892, including arrivals to Castle garden, the first US immigration station. Another 2 million transcriptions back to 1820 will be added later.

<http://immigrants.byu.edu> - Emigrant records created in the countries of departure, with an initial focus on England, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Scotland, and Spain. The project, from Brigham Young University's Center for Family History and Genealogy had 151,000 names in February, with 250,000 expected by September.

www.immigrantships.net - More than 500 volunteers have posted about 2 million names from 9,000 manifests for ports worldwide, spanning 1492 to 1966.

www.familytreemagazine.com

PoliticalFamilyTree.com... where history comes to life!

Free Sample Section of PoliticalFamilyTree.com

The free sample section of PoliticalFamilyTree.com has a large and growing collection of hundreds of FREE printable, family trees for major U.S. politicians, including all Presidents, Vice Presidents, 2007-2008 Presidential Candidates, losing Presidential & Vice-Presidential Candidates, Signers of Founding Documents, First Ladies, and many others.

New content is added to the free section of the website every month. A direct link to the sample website is: <http://www.politicalfamilytree.com/samples%20content/members/index.html>

About PoliticalFamilyTree.com

Our growing collection of thousands of family trees of U.S. Politicians contains American leaders not only from federal, state and local offices, but also leaders in the realms of economics, social issues, the military, and other walks of life.

Subscription available for access to the full collection. A special for genealogical or historical society members is available using the coupon code C81BE9 during the checkout process.

Who Do You Think You Are?

NBC Genealogy TV Show in April

This is a popular British television program that has been exported to other countries. Each country produces their own shows featuring local television personalities and stories. The American program will start April 20th on Mondays at 8:00 pm.

The show personalizes history and turns it into a gripping narrative. The most striking thing about the show is the realization of how connected we all are. Mark your calendar.

EASTMAN'S ONLINE GENEAL. NEWSLETTER,
<http://www.eogn.com>, January 27, 2009

DEAR ABBY:

'I have always wanted to have my family history traced, but I can't afford to spend a lot of money to do it. Any suggestions?'

-Sam in California

DEAR SAM:

'Register as a Republican, and run for public office.'

The Truth About the 1890 U.S. Census

Most U.S. genealogists have been told that the 1890 census was destroyed in a fire. However, that's not true. First, the fire didn't do much damage to the census records but the water that was applied to the fire did create significant damage. Then the water-soaked records were left in a warehouse, untreated, for several years. Mold and mildew took their toll. Government workers eventually destroyed the remains of those records. Or did they?

Tamie Dehler has written an article in the Terre Haute Tribune-Star that says (in part): Only 6,160 names out of a population of nearly 63 million on the 1890 census were saved. That is only about one-hundredth of 1 percent. Yet, if your ancestor was living in one of the counties recovered, the name is worth looking for because they are all indexed.

Many people aren't aware, however, that much more of the 1890 census was saved — in the form of the Special Enumeration of Union Veterans and Widows. You can read Tamie's entire article at http://www.tribstar.com/history/local_story_052215909.html.

EASTMAN'S ONLINE GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER,
<http://www.eogn.com>, February 22, 2009

25,000 Historical Book Titles Now Free On Line

Salt Lake City, Utah - Family Search international reached a milestone with the digitization of its 25,000th publication online. It began in 2007 and is ramping up to do even more-and faster. The effort targets published family, society, county, and town histories, as well as numerous other historical publications that are digitally preserved and made accessible for free online. The digital publications can be searched at: www.FamilySearch.org [Go to [FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org), then click Search records].

Family Search, 26 Dec. 2008

Visit the SPGS website:
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

Descendants of the Ropesville Resettlement Project, 1936 1943

In each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve.

The Ropesville Resettlement Project was a brainchild of the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration. The government bought a portion of the old Spade Ranch and divided it into farms for young families wanting to make a living on the farm. Each farm in 1936 had about 160 acres, a two-bedroom house with running water and a bathtub - no commode but an outhouse. They did not get electricity until 1939. That year they also started to use butane heaters so the coal pop bellied stoves were done away with. Each farm had a windmill, barn, chicken house, grain house, and out buildings. They were ready to move in and begin a new life. The prospective tenants filed out an application. It was required that the man have a wife and preferably children. The young families were all from this general area. They were very excited to move into a brand new home beginning in January 1936. Some moved from their parent's home, one family had been living in a barn and one family had been living in a tent!

There were about 77 "Projects" in the United States but this is one of the few that was successful. Many of the farms are still owned by descendants of the original settlers.

In 1938 the "new" project was ready. There was a big barbecue to welcome the new 44 families who were to join the first 33. Some of the houses on the new farms had three bedrooms but I understand they had no running water and they didn't have a bathtub. A Community House was built and there were many 'gatherings' of the young families.

In 1943, the government sold the farms to the ones who wanted to make the purchase. The government needed the money for the war effort.

After an article in the Texas Highways about the Project, I thought why not a Heritage Society for the descendants of these brave young families? We had an information meeting July 26, 2004 and our organization meeting on January 24, 2005. We had a charter meeting on May 7, 2005. We chartered with 20 members and 7 associate members. At this time we have 46 members and 13 associate members. To be a member one must prove their ancestor resided on the Project. Anyone who cannot prove descent from an original resident but has an interest in the Project may be an associate member.

Objectives of Descendants of the Ropesville Resettlement Project 1936 - 1943:

To perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who were residents of the Ropesville Farm Project 1936 -1943

To commemorate the pioneering deeds of our ancestors

To aid in the preservation of the documents and relics of the Project

To preserve the lineage of the original occupants

As far as we know we are the only Heritage Society originating in our area and probably the newest one in Texas. For more information call Toni Manning Chambers at 806 795-0580 or Freida Manning Campbell at 806 866-9641,

Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts, but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the storytellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called. We cherish our memories and want to pass them on to future generations.



South Plains
Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 6607
Lubbock, TX 79493-6607

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LUBBOCK, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 800

NEWSLETTER ITEMS: Newsletter items may be submitted to Yvonne Perkins, 2107 54th, Lubbock, TX - 79412-2610 Telephone: 806-747-1319 e-mail: YvonneGengirl@yahoo.com
Alternate contact: Vi Zeeck at 806-794-6849 or chasviz58@sbcglobal.net

**South Plains Genealogical Society
2009 Membership**

Charles Zeeck, SPGS Treasurer

P. O. Box 6607

Lubbock, TX 79493-6607

- () Individual \$15.00
() Couple \$20.00
() Sustaining \$30.00 or any larger amount

Annual Dues are from January 1st to December 31st.

Dues are delinquent after March 1st.

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address: _____

Surnames being researched: _____

**ARE YOU RESEARCHING
YOUR COLLATERAL LINES?**

As editor I spent a lot of time looking for items to help SPGS members and researchers. I try not to repeat things but it gets harder and harder to come up with new ideas.

In a recent copy of Family Tree Magazine I noticed a story on tracing collateral lines and remembered that several years ago I heard a researcher say that they "did not trace collateral, only direct lines." How would we find the right families if we did not trace the brothers/sisters, aunts/uncles and sometimes friends?

With so many common names we would not know if we had the right John Doe. Researchers need to know if the John Doe they have found has the same brothers or uncles that your Joe Doe had. I have so many "common" surnames [Smith, Thompson, Henderson], that I need to know everything about the family - wives, where they lived, relatives and anything else I can find.

Also remember that it helps to trace a brother/sister, etc. because they may have left a better "trail" when yours left nothing but census records. This is true of friends, also, because friends or neighbors moved together from county to county or state. We need all the clues we can find! YSP