



Rockdale County Genealogical Society
circa 1993



Jeans & Genes

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The purpose of the Rockdale County Genealogical Society (RCGS) is to encourage researchers, individuals, historians, genealogists, and others in their quest to find and document their ancestors, with accurate, historical information that will enhance their research capabilities.

The RCGS meets at 3:00 p.m. on the 2nd Sunday of the month, unless a Holiday, then on the 3rd Sunday at: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- Day Saints, 1275 Flat Shoals Road, Conyers.

*Visit us
on the web at:*
[rockdalegenealogical
society.weebly.com](http://rockdalegenealogical.society.weebly.com)

*Like us on
Facebook!*

THE ROCKDALE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (RCGS)

Sunday, May 17, 2015

CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST of LATTER DAY SAINTS,
1275 Flat Shoals Rd, Conyers, GA

**SPEAKER —
RUTH WILSON**

***“DIGITIZING ROCKDALE
COUNTY RECORDS”***



Ruth A. Wilson was elected to serve as the Rockdale County Clerk of Courts in 2008. She serves as the Clerk of Superior and State Courts for the Rockdale Judicial Circuit as well as the Jury Clerk and Clerk to the Rockdale County Jury Commission. She is responsible for maintaining the County Master Jury List and administering the Jury Management Process. In addition, she provides oversight of the two County Boards of Equalization.

The Clerk of the Courts is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Office pursuant to the provisions of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The overarching duty of the Clerk is the care, custody, control and maintenance of the official records of the trial courts. The clerk exercises authority over the policy, management, administration and function of the Office in the interests of judicial efficiency and justice of the Rockdale Judicial Circuit. The Clerk also develops accounting, indexing and case management systems designed to ensure the accuracy and completeness of all reports required by the Uniform Superior Court Rules. It is also the responsibility of the Clerk to ensure appropriate changes are made to comply with new State and Federal legislation and regulations.

The meeting begins at 3:00 p.m.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

The 150th Anniversary of the Civil War

~ written by Ms. Tonya Fay Green
RCGS Member

"Gone With The Wind" are the days when large plantations, filled with grandeur, great hope, good food and fine wine existed and when cotton was the primary commodity to produce and sell — a great source of economic wealth for Georgia.

Georgia's economic prosperity and its desire to govern itself free of Federal control, caused their secession from the Union and the state of Georgia was in for the biggest fight of its history up until that time — the Civil War.

The Civil War was a battle between the northern states and the southern states of what is now called the United States of America. People from the north were called "Yankees" and those from the South were called "Confederates."

The year of 2014 was a great milestone for the Civil War — the 150th Anniversary of the battle that separated a nation and families and changed our lives as citizens of the greatest country on Earth for all the generations that came afterwards. The commemoration of all the families who lost a loved one, members in both the

South and the North, will be remembered with great sorrow.

The Civil War finally ended in June of 1865 when General Lee surrendered. Many lives were lost and amnesty was granted to surviving Confederate soldiers.

The 150th Anniversary was a victory and a commemoration of what Georgia stood for — the right to self-government. Thanks to the soldiers of the Civil War who served Georgia with courage and commitment.

FYI - A comprehensive list of all of the historical societies in the state of Georgia can be found at <http://www.historical-society.com/list/ga>. The list also includes links to their Facebook pages for those that have one. Happy hunting!

What is the ISSDSA?

Hard work has its' rewards! Chapter member Devra Harney recently received a certificate from the International Society of Sons and Daughters of Slave Ancestry (ISSDSA) certifying her membership in the organization as a result of her ability to document her slave ancestry. Devra has compiled quite an extensive body of research, of which she certainly should be proud.

The purpose of the ISSDSA is to

perpetuate the memory of our slave ancestors in America and around the world by: Honoring and celebrating our enslaved ancestors; promoting an interest in slave genealogy and family history; encouraging the documentation, publication, and preservation of slave genealogy and historical information; and recognizing people who research, document, publish and preserve their slave ancestry.

Membership is open to any individual who can prove slave ancestry without regard to sex, race, color, creed or national origin.

To find out more information on this organization, visit their website at: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilissdsa/

Congratulations Devra!

The RCGS Needs Your Help!

The RCGS is seeking to receive in donation (or possibly purchase) books for the following counties to become part of our collection at the Nancy Guinn Library. If you would like to either donate a book from one of these counties, or contribute toward the purchase of a book, please contact Martha Brown, RCGS Library Liaison (contact information on last page of this newsletter). Any help or suggestions that you can provide in helping to make our collection more robust would be appreciated.

ATKINSON
BERRIEN
BROOKS
CANDLER
CLINCH
DADE
ECHOLS
HARRIS
JOHNSON
LEE
MITCHELL
PIERCE
SCHLEY
TATTNALL
TOOMBS
WARREN
WILKINSON

BAKER
BIBB
BRYAN
CATOOSA
COFFEE
DAWSON
EVANS
HART
JONES
LONG
MONTGOMERY
PUTNAM
SEMINOLE
TELFAIR
TREUTLEN
WEBSTER
WORTH

BANKS
BLECKLEY
BULLOCH
CHATTAHOOCHEE
COLUMBIA
DODGE
GLASCOCK
JEFF DAVIS
LAMAR
MARION
MURRAY
QUITMAN
SPALDING
TERRELL
TWIGGS
WHEELER

BEN HILL
BRANTLEY
CAMPBELL
CLAY
COOK
DOUGHERTY
GRADY
JENKINS
LANIER
MCDUFFIE
PAULDING
RANDOLPH
TALIAFERRO
THOMAS
WARE
WILCOX

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS)



The Metro Atlanta Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society provides a local forum for family-tree researchers by sharing historical and genealogical information, methodology and sources about African Americans with roots not just in Georgia, but in all states and nations. The Chapter offers: (1) Workshops and a speakers' forum to meet the needs and interests of chapter members. (2) Monthly meetings that offer opportunities to meet other researchers and share research strategies, problems and successes unique to African American family tree searches. (3) State Research Focus Groups for researchers of specific states, as determined by member interest and participation. (4) Friendly interactions between family history researchers and genealogists of all levels of experience, from beginners to published experts.

The next meeting of AAHGS will be Saturday, May 30, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. at the Wolf Creek Library, 3100 Enon Road, Atlanta. The topic is: My Ancestor Discovery: What/Who I Found and How - Chapter Members will share their family history research, briefly showing what they have found about one ancestor and how they went about finding it.

What's Happening in Genealogy

~ Excerpts taken from submissions by
Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.
Atlanta Journal Constitution

GENEALOGY GOPHERS ACCESSES 40,000 PUBLICATIONS:

Genealogy Gophers at gengophers.com, currently includes 40,000 genealogy publications including lots of family histories from the collection digitized by FamilySearch from Brigham Young University in Utah. So why the excitement over access to books already available? It's easier to use to gain access to the contents of many pre-1923 publications. Easy to access, view and print a copy via PDF download.

WINDER NEWSPAPERS IN NEW BOOK:

Faye Stone Poss has published newspaper abstracts from the cities of Athens, Louisville, Sparta, Washington, and Jackson County. Her latest is "Winder in the News, Newspaper Accounts of Winder, Georgia, 1893-1915" which includes important information from its renaming through it becoming the county seat of newly-formed Barrow County in 1914. The book is available for \$35 postpaid from Faye Poss, 2767 Centerville Rosebud Rd., Snellville, GA 30039-5517. Check also <http://fayestoneposs.tripod.com> for her other books.

NORTH CAROLINA LAND GRANTS AND PLATS: North Carolina land grants and plats are being digi-

tized and uploaded on a new, free site, which is not part of the North Carolina Archives site or FamilySearch. Check <http://NCLandgrants.com>. You can also check the North Carolina Archives MARS link at <http://mars.archives.ncdcr.gov> to see what is there related to your ancestors, as they have land records and a lot more.

EUROPEAN ROOTS: Some websites of interest for European backgrounds include: Hungarian (www.hungaryexchange.com), or for Dutch (www.wiewaswie.nl). Bremen passenger lists can be searched at www.passengerlists.de with a wide range of dates and types of records. Other good sites for various ancestral origins can be found through Cyndi's List (www.cyndislist.com).

FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE:

"Family Tree Magazine" is celebrating fifteen years in print, and with each issue being full of genealogically useful information, they are offering a DVD including all fifteen years (96 issues). See www.familytreemagazine.com then go to "shop" and then "15 years." It should be a valuable resource for anyone doing genealogy and for any genealogy library.

ANCESTRY AND AARP: A discount for Ancestry.com member-

ship is being offered via AARP, whether you are already a member or wanted to sign up for the first time. Since Ancestry.com is the premier website for finding genealogy materials online, it's worth checking into.

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS:

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, organized in 1896, has 108 local camps or chapters in Georgia, with 19 in the Atlanta area. Membership is based on having an ancestor who fought in any military branch or served in the government for the Confederate States of America. One can join as an associate and have his genealogy researched to obtain full membership. For further information, check <http://gascv.org>, then "Member Resources." A list of local camps with Camp Commanders is on the site. They have a Grave Registry where they are trying to document all Confederate veterans' gravesites. Other projects include restoration of gravestones and cemeteries, as well as obtaining Veterans Administration tombstones for any unmarked Confederate soldier, with the application also found under Member Resources. The national headquarters is at SCV, P. O. Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402.

70TH ANNIVERSARY END OF WWII IN EUROPE: World War II personnel records are found on

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several sites. At Ancestry.com one can find enlistment records with great details, as well as some "Old Man Registrations" for several states where those survived. Due to the fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis in 1973 the National Archives has begun a database to reconstruct from other sources some of the military records. To see what you can find there, check www.archives.gov/aad as part of the "Access to Archives Databases." Under Genealogy, search Military and the largest database is the Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File. You have to play around with all its quirks, but you can alphabetize by state the results and locate someone.

MEXICAN GENEALOGY: An article about discovering one's Mexican roots can be found in the

May/June issue of Family Tree Magazine. It should be worth checking for anyone with that heritage. Found at bookstores and newsstands, it is also at www.familytreemagazine.com. On the site one can find the current issue, and older articles.

SOUTH CAROLINA SOURCES SHOULD ALWAYS BE CHECKED:

Anyone with deep Southern roots should always check the original records and published source-books for South Carolina, as so many families migrated from there further westward, especially through Georgia and beyond. "South Carolina's State Grants, Volume Three: Grant Books 12 - 15, 1786-1787" by Brent H. Holcomb covers more of the grants issued after the state land office reopened in 1784. He abstracted the vital data for each grant: name, acreage, location, water course, and dates. The book is \$35 plus \$5 postage from

Holcomb at P. O. Box 21766, Columbia, SC 29221. See www.scmr.com.

Holcomb also published "Associate Reformed Presbyterian Death & Marriage Notices, Volume IV: 1897-1902" which is full of important data from a wide range of Southern states as far as Texas, and includes a lot of Jefferson County, Georgia people. There is a full-name index. \$30 plus \$5 postage.

CDC'S HISTORY IN NEW BOOK:

Bob Kelley will speak at the DeKalb History Center's Lunch & Learn Seminar on May 19 about his new book "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention" with Judy Gantt, from Arcadia Publishing. Noon, free, bring your lunch. For further information check www.dekalbhistory.org or call 404-373-1088, ext. 23.



SOCIETY OF GEORGIA ARCHIVISTS (SGA)

Preserving the Past and the Present for the Future

The Society of Georgia Archivists (SGA) is a group whose mission is to preserve the past and the present for the future. SGA was established in 1969 to foster a community of archivists, librarians, historians, educators, and museum and historical agency personnel in the state of Georgia and around the Southeastern United States. The organization is interested in creating opportunities for members to learn more about the field of archives by offering educational events, networking, and career opportunities. Membership in SGA also provides a solid connection to information about current archival and historical trends and issues, as well as opportunities to associate with and learn from leading individuals in the field.

Individual membership is \$25 annually and student membership is \$10 per year. Benefits of membership include discounted conference and workshop fees, access to the SGA listserv and online job postings, as well as subscriptions to the SGA publications *Provenance* and the *SGA Newsletter*. For more information, please visit the Society of Georgia Archivists website at www.soga.org.

RCGS BOARD MEMBERS

President—Chris Zawadzki
770-785-9888
zawadzki@bellsouth.net

Vice President—Gayle Vivian
770-922-5151
gpv@bellsouth.net

Secretary/Webmaster/Facebook—Ellen Blakeslee
770-922-9379
ceirrageorgia.antq@gmail.com

Treasurer—Jane Conn
770-860-8072
janeconn1275@aol.com

Library Liaison—Martha Brown
770-483-6949
mbrown2205@aol.com

Newsletter—Valerie Vinson
404-285-2135
vinsonv@bellsouth.net

Program Coordinator—Debbie Dial
770-786-0288
debbiedial2013@gmail.com

**UPCOMING MEETING
SPEAKERS/TOPICS**

- MAY 17** -Ruth Wilson
Rockdale County Clerk of Courts
Plans for Digitizing County Court Records
- JUNE 14** -Don Joiner, Writer
Book: Old Churches in Conyers
- JULY 11** -SATURDAY, 3:00 P.M.
-Pamela Hiatt
ROOTSMAGIC (Genealogy Database) Workshop
- JULY 12** -David Williams
Using the Cloud for Genealogy

Speakers and/or topics are subject to change without notice

ALL ARE WELCOME!

The meetings are free and open to the public, however donations are accepted and graciously appreciated to help defray operational expenses.

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer

Hot on the trail.

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