

The Genealogical Record

Volume LVI (56) Fall 2014

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President's Message

By Virginia "Ginny" Schweitzer Douglas



It was with heavy hearts that we closed out our 2013-14 Houston Genealogical Forum program year. Gloria Russell's illness and death last spring in her 4th term as President of HGF was a shock to us all. Her friendship, her dedication to HGF and her expertise in leadership will be missed. We will honor Gloria by dedicating the coming program year to her. "The Gloria LaVonne Wright Russell Memorial Lecture Series" began in September.

In October we learned of the sudden death of HGF Director Lee Gaskill. Lee was a wonderful addition to our board and his ever smiling face and calm nature will be greatly missed. Our membership will also miss seeing Lee at the book table in the back of the room at each meeting. Our hearts go out to his wife Melinda. Their love and devotion to each other was evident to all that were fortunate to know them.

The Houston Genealogical Forum is fortunate to have many of last year's board members returning to serve another year. In addition, we have two members new to the board: 1st Vice President Programs Barbara Richards and Corresponding Secretary Sharron Newhouse. Thank you past and present Board. It takes many volunteers to keep HGF operating smoothly and without Gloria and Lee, it will take many more. A big thank you to all of our member volunteers, whose hard work behind the scenes greatly contributes to the success of our Forum.

We're looking forward to an exciting and informative year! Thanks to your generous donations to HGF, in Gloria's memory, we are able to host two national speakers this fall and two in the spring of 2015, as well as other local well known speakers. We hope to see you on the first Saturday of each month at our general meetings!

Ginny Douglas

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Gloria LaVonne Wright Russell

By Marilyn Maniscalco Henley



Seventy-one years ago when Gloria was born weighing only 3 lbs, 6 oz and a mere 12" long, she must have been considered a miracle baby. Her mother's birth announcement read:

*"You were so tiny you would lay easily in the palm of the nurses hands.
You were put right into the incubator after birth.
You were there 5 weeks.
Mother didn't even see you for almost 2 weeks.
Your Daddy & I are about as happy as possible."
(Signed) Mother'*

Although Gloria started out as a preemie, she could never be considered tiny in her enthusiasm for the Houston Genealogical Forum. While she had many other interests, HGF was her passion for nearly twenty years. She served on the Board almost continuously from 1998 – 2014 and is the only person to be elected to four terms as President.

HGF can attribute many of its projects, especially the Bible transcriptions, directly to Gloria. She spent countless hours writing, designing and managing the Forum's website after its debut in 2003. She was helpful, unselfish and dedicated to the Houston Genealogical Forum and served the organization as a leader in many other roles. She helped with nearly all positions in HGF.

But Gloria was more than a worker bee for HGF; she was a friend to countless people, members past and current, including many who didn't know her personally, assisting them with inquiries and other genealogy related information. For me, Gloria was a very close friend. We shared laughs, tears, lunches, shopping and, of course, genealogy research and seminars.

The 50th anniversary issue of The Genealogical Record will serve as a legacy to Gloria's unceasing passion for the HGF. For two years, she researched and compiled the history, arranged for photos, interviews, and the final program. The result is a written history of The Houston Genealogical Forum.

*"I prepared this Special Edition as a labor of love dedicated to all who are, and who have been associated with, the Houston Genealogical Forum over the past years and in the years to come. I found that the research involved in preparing this issue was much like looking for those ancestors we seek to find and they want to play "hide and seek" with us. Of course, as in any history of fifty years, there is more that could have been covered but space and size of the publication did not permit it. I hope you enjoy the results of my labor. Gloria LaVonne Wright Russell"*ⁱⁱ



In memoriam, The Houston Genealogical Forum is proud to dedicate its 2014-2015 Program Year to Gloria LaVonne Wright Russell.

ⁱ Birth Announcement & photo Gloria LaVonne Wright in possession of Oran Russell

ⁱⁱ The Genealogical Record Special Edition – Vol L (50) 2008 – No. 5, pg 102 and www.HGFTX.org

Upcoming Events

Meetings are held monthly September through May on the first Saturday of each month. (Note: Unless the 1st Saturday falls on a holiday weekend.) Our meeting location is Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston Texas 77074. Unless otherwise noted, all general meetings and many seminars are free to our members. Remember to check the website (www.hgftx.org) for more information and updates of our scheduled events.

General meetings begin at 10:00 am. Doors open at 9:00 am. Come early and enjoy the refreshments!

2014-2015 Gloria LaVonne Wright Russell Memorial Lecture Series

Saturday, January 3, 2015 General Meeting 10:00 am – Noon

Wil McCorquodale, PhD will speak on “**Political and religious developments in 17th century England and the immigration implications to the North American colonies, particularly New England**”

Special Interest Group (SIG) is meeting at **9:00 am**. This presentation is moderated by Mary Ann Dillion with the topic of “**Organizing Your Research**”

Saturday, January 10, 2015 10:00 am – Noon

Beginning Genealogical Class Session 1 - Topic: “**Where to Begin Research and Getting Organized**”

Saturday, January 24, 2015 10:00 am – Noon

Beginning Genealogical Class Session 2 - Topic: “**Census and Tax Records**”

Saturday, February 7, 2015 General Meeting 10:00 am – Noon

Jeannette Piecznski, a professional genealogist, lecturer and author will present “**iGenealogy – the Good and Bad of Online Genealogy?**”

Special Interest Group (SIG) is meeting at **9:00 am**. This presentation is moderated by Marjorie Lowe with the topic of “**Trail of Tears**”

Saturday, February 14, 2015 10:00 am – Noon

Beginning Genealogical Class Session 3 - Topic: “**Military Records**”

Saturday, February 28, 2015 10:00 am – Noon

Beginning Genealogical Class Session 4 - Topic: “**State and Federal Land Records**”

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Saturday, March 7, 2015 General Meeting/Seminar 10:00 am –3:00 pm extended time

Judy Russell, a genealogist with a law degree who helps folks understand the legal concepts and terminology that are important in family history. Topics included are "**After the Fire (DNA)**" A focus more on how DNA can really be used in real-world situations to answer family history mysteries and less on the basics, "**Dowered and Bound Out:Records of Widows and Orphans**" Widows and orphans have always had a special place in the law but it is not always the place that 21st century researchers might expect, "**How Old Did He Have to Be**" Knowing a person's age is often the key to distinguishing between two people of the same name and the law can often give the answer, "**A Family for Isabella**"

Note: This is an extended meeting, bring your own lunch or you can preorder from PICNIC. Forms available at our HGFTX.org website.

Saturday, March 14, 2015 10:00 am – Noon

Beginning Genealogical Class Session 5 - Topic: "**Passenger, Immigration and Migration Records**"

Saturday, March 28, 2015 10:00 am – Noon

Beginning Genealogical Class Session 6 - Topic: "**County Courthouse: Deed, Probate & Miscellaneous Records**"

Saturday, April 11*, 2015 General Meeting 10:00 am – Noon

"**Share and Be Inspired**" meeting. Come see how our members are sharing their research!

**Note: This is the 2nd Saturday due to the Easter holiday*

Saturday, May 2, 2015 General Meeting 10:00 am – 2:30pm extended time

Denise Levenick, a writer, researcher and speaker on preserving and sharing family treasures of all kinds and creator of the family history blog – The Family Curator. Denise will speak on "**The Paper-less Genealogist**", "**Caring for Keepsakes: Top 10 Family Treasures**" and "**Paper or Plastic? Preserving Keepsakes**"

Note: This is an extended meeting, bring your own lunch or you can preorder from PICNIC. Forms available at our HGFTX.org website.

Beginning Genealogical Classes

Returning January 2015



with
Marje Harris
 Retired Manager of
 Clayton Library for Genealogical Research

Two Saturdays Monthly
January 10th thru March 28th, 2015
10 am - Noon
Bayland Community Center • 6400 Bissonnet
 (between Hillcroft & Beechnut)

- ◆ **Jan 10, 2015** Where to Begin Research and Getting Organized
- ◆ **Jan 24, 2015** Census and Tax Records
- ◆ **Feb 14, 2015** Military Records
- ◆ **Feb 28, 2015** State and Federal Land Records
- ◆ **Mar 14, 2015** Passenger, Immigration and Migration Records
- ◆ **Mar 28, 2015** County Courthouse: Deed, Probate & Misc. Records
 All class material provided in a CD

HGF members: \$15 per class or all six for \$75 – Save \$15
 Non-members: \$20 per class or all six for \$95 – Save \$25

Don't miss out on these information-packed classes!
 To sign up or for more information go to our website: www.hgftx.org
 or call our Genealine at 713-968-9750

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Houston Genealogical Forum
 P O Box 271466 ▪ Houston, TX 77277-1466
 www.hgftx.org

May 22, 2014

Ms. Susan Kaufman, Manager
 Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research
 5300 Caroline
 Houston, Texas 77004

Dear Susan:

The Houston Genealogical Forum gladly donates the following seven genealogy related books to the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, Houston, TX in memory of former HGF members or their family member.

- ❖ **James Stafford Lowe, Sr:** *Cherokee Citizenship Commission Docket Books 1880-1884 and 1887-1889* by Jeff Bowen
- ❖ **Beverly Hooven Vaughn:** *Granby Bicentennial 1768-1968* by The Town of Granby, Massachusetts
- ❖ **Herman Joseph "Bubba" Guillot:** *History of Franklin County, Kentucky* by L. F. Johnson
- ❖ **Lily Mae Alfano Maniscalco:** *History of Wise County (TX): A Link With the Past, Vol III* by The Wise County Historical Survey Committee 1975/1987
- ❖ **Warren Bonner Frost:** *Recollections of the Civil War* by Mason Whiting Tyler
- ❖ **Ruth Patricia Chambers Lewis:** *The German-American Soldier in the Wars of the U.S.* by J. S. Rosegarten's History
- ❖ **Evelyn "Lyn" Fleming Benton:** *Rockingham County, New Hampshire Paupers* by Pauline Johnson Oesterlin

Thank you for your service with the Clayton Library. The Forum and our members look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Maniscalco Henley

Marilyn Maniscalco Henley, Historian
 Houston Genealogical Forum
 2013-2014 Board of Directors



Sue Kaufman (Clayton Library Manager),
 Judith Trammell and Marilyn Maniscalco Henley of HGF
 presenting memorial books to the library