

(President's Message continued)

I hope to see each of you at our next meeting. Encourage your friends and family to come and join us as we are preserving history for future generations.

Robert Evans

Remember to check out our website

www.drghs.org



Author, Grady Howell, speaker for the April meeting, signing his book, *The Button Jar*, for DRGHS members Shirley Evans and Pat Wynell Parrish.

Humor in Genealogy

You might be a genealogist if you know more about the past than the present.

A home with everything in its place and a place for everything, means you are not well suited for genealogy!

Genealogy isn't a pastime---it's a passion.

Mississippi's First Railroads

One of the earliest railroads built in the United States was built in Mississippi from Woodville to St. Francisville, Louisiana. The purpose of the road was to carry cotton from the farms to a river port. Built in the mid 1830s, the cost of construction was at least \$21,000 per mile. For this reason, it was difficult to raise enough money to build the roadbeds which were usually built with steep hills and curves. Horses were used to draw the carriages on some of the lines but steam locomotives gradually proved more useful. The steam locomotives usually covered the passengers or cars with sparks and frequently fires had to be put out.

Although a railroad eventually ran through Carthage it did not play a significant role in the development of the town. In 1914, the Merrill Brothers Logging Company built a logging railroad from Canton to McAfee, passing through Carthage. The line was taken over in 1927 by the Canton and Carthage Railroad, which then established commercial service to Carthage. The railroad was abandoned in 1960.

The Jackson and Eastern Railway was completed to Walnut Grove in 1923 and extended to nearby Tuscola in 1925. In 1925 the railroad was purchased by Gulf, Mobile and Northern. When the railroad first came to Walnut Grove and the lumber companies set up for business, they built "dummy lines" into the woods which means the logs were hauled from the woods to the mills. Before the railroad was extended on to Jackson, the terminal at Walnut Grove had a "y"; this enabled a train to turn its engine so it could retrace itself.

THIS MONTH IN U. S. HISTORY

May 10 is Mother's Day.

May 10 1869 The newly constructed tracks of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railways were first linked at Promontory Point, Utah. A golden spike was driven by Leland Stanford, president of the Central Pacific, to celebrate the linkage. It is said that he missed the spike on his first swing which brought roars of laughter from men who had driven thousands of spikes themselves.

May 14, 1607 The first permanent English settlement in America was established at Jamestown, Virginia.