



"Who You Hire Does Make a Difference."

John Haugen
West Point Graduate
Former US Army Captain

Haugen Law Firm, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

DIVORCE • DWI • WILLS • TRUSTS

972-436-8750

www.HaugenLawFirm.com

- Child Custody
- Child Support
- Enforcement
- Modifications



THE CROSS TIMBERS GAZETTE

ARGYLE, BARTONVILLE, CANYON FALLS, COPPER CANYON, DOUBLE OAK, FLOWER MOUND, HARVEST, HIGHLAND VILLAGE, LANTANA, NORTHLAKE AND ROBSON RANCH

August 2020

www.CrossTimbersGazette.com

Since 1979

It's All Relative for Highland Village Genealogist

By Steve Gamel, Contributing Writer

Dan Nelson has never been the type of guy to throw up his hands and quit when a trail appears to have run its course. So when a new client swore up and down that his ancestors were nothing more than regular people who led quiet, uninteresting lives, Dan took it as a challenge to find a few hidden branches on that family tree.

To his credit, the client was somewhat correct. Dan, a Certified Genealogist who has unearthed some fascinating stories in his day, found plenty of farmers and Midwesterners in his initial search. They were all salt-of-the-earth types who worked extremely hard and lived off the land until the day they died, but their stories were few and far between and certainly not that intriguing. That is until Dan started looking into one ancestor by

the name of Benjamin Smith.

"Here was a guy who was a Revolutionary War hero and patriot," Dan said. "He escaped three times from captivity and suffered immensely. He became a privateer, and when the war ended, he went home and farmed for 40 years. Along the way, he thought, 'Maybe people will want to hear about what I've done.' So he wrote down his story.

"[The client] told me, 'You won't find any neat stories. We were boring.' Now he has a fabulous story to share with family."

Online research into one's family history has become a booming business over the past decade, including the birth of websites such as 23andMe, MyHeritage,

See **DANCESTORS** on Page A19



Dan Nelson spends his time shaking family trees. (Photo by Nick Allen Photography)



The vision for Furst Ranch is to protect the natural scenic views and environmental features in western Flower Mound, while providing an active lifestyle for the community. (Photo by Ken Vaughan Photography)

Ranch Owners Lead Vision for Future Development

By Mark Smith, Digital Editor

The owners of the 2,068-acre Furst Ranch in far west Flower Mound have a big dream for a future mixed-use community on their family ranch land.

Jack and Debra Furst bought their first 55 acres in 1991 in Bartonville. Over the years, they added additional acreage of adjoining property encompassing Hwy 377 and FM 1171 as they built their horse and cattle business at Furst Ranch. They donated the northernmost part of their land for the construction of Cross Timbers Church and Liberty Christian School.

The ranch served as a great place

for people to connect with nature. Boy Scouts of America and American Heritage Girls troops used the property for meeting and camping. Several television shows were filmed on the ranch including "Dallas" and "Walker, Texas Ranger." Some of the family's favorite times were horseback riding, fishing

See **FURST** on Page A15

Inside This Section

Mayor's Columns
Local Experts

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #997
LEWISVILLE, TX



YOUR NEIGHBORS LOVE US

YOU WILL TOO



"PointBank puts the word 'community' in 'community' bank. They are great to work with for both personal and business."
Kelly Murray
Murray Media Group

"We felt it would be important to work with a local bank which provides a 'hands on' approach, and PointBank was the one that fit our needs."
Steve & Karen Severance
Steve's Wine Bar

"The customer service I've had with PointBank for the last five years is amazing!"
Al Berisha
Giovanni's Pizza

"I would recommend PointBank to any of my friends and family."
Luciana Berney
Coffee Tree Cafe
Argyle

"I can talk to somebody I actually know that I can trust."
Steve Gauvey & Dr. Leena Alexander
Starshine Dentistry

"PointBank is a true community bank. You know the people who are here and they take care of you."
Jill E. Jester
Minor & Jester, P.C.

940-686-7000 • pointbank.com • 972-434-3200



Argyle Aubrey Denton FlowerMound LakeCities Lewisville LittleElm PilotPoint

