

DCGS NEWS

D E N T O N C O U N T Y G E N E A L O G I C A L S O C I E T Y

MARCH MEETING THURSDAY MARCH 10, 2016



1896- Denton County Courthouse-

The Denton County Genealogical Society meets on the second Thursday during the months on September-November and January-May. 6:30 P.M.

Denton Public Library, Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland St., Denton, TX 76201
www.genealogydentontexas.org

Program: "Land and Property Records" Speaker: Lynell Moss

Lynell Bennett Moss is a 6th generation Dallasite. She has been researching hers and other's families since 1968. She has been in a leadership position with the Plano Family History Center for 24 years and is currently training Consultants in Plano and

has been the Director of the Great Family Search Conference for 12 years. She beta tested programs for FamilySearch. She is a member of the Dallas Genealogical Society, Texas State Genealogical Society and National Genealogical Society.

The program will be a discussion on the history, development, types of land records, where to find them, and what family history gold those records may contain.

HOW TO FIND A REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT

After earlier skirmishes, the American Revolutionary War started with the battle between British troops and local Massachusetts militia at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, on 19 April 1775. It ended eight years later with the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783. If you have been able to trace your ancestry in America back to those years, you have an excellent chance of finding at least one ancestor who had some type of service related to the Revolutionary War effort.

In fact, your ancestor may have been a Patriot or a Loyalist. We don't celebrate the efforts of Loyalists very much in the United States, but go north to Canada and you will find that Loyalists are well documented and honored as heroes. They are especially honored for their contribution to the development of Canada. Perhaps one Canadian in ten has a Loyalist ancestor, and many people with English blood who live

elsewhere – in the United States, in commonwealth countries such as Australia and New Zealand, or in nearly any other country round the world – are also of Loyalist descent. Visit the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada web site at <http://www.uelac.org/> for more information.

If you have already documented your U.S. ancestry to 1760 or earlier, you already have an excellent chance of finding either a Patriot or a Loyalist in the family tree. Boys as young as 16 were allowed to serve, so any male ancestors born in 1760 or earlier are possible veterans. You can even find a few younger boys who served as drummers or assistants in the Revolutionary War and later were credited as veterans, even though they were not considered soldiers during the war itself. and a very few even fought in battles while disguised as male soldiers.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow members:

I hope you enjoyed the presentation by Kimberly Wells at our last meeting as much as I did. She brought out many interesting points about epidemics and diseases that our ancestors suffered through. I think the information and handouts she gave us will be a great help in locating that ancestor that just "disappeared", or why a group of ancestors suddenly moved away.

As I mentioned last month, if you are interested in serving our Society by being on our Nominating Committee, please contact me or any of the other board members.

Of course, if you would like to step in as an officer for the next two-year term starting in September, 2016 please let me know and I'll make sure your name gets to the Nominating Committee.

I urge you to visit our Denton County Genealogical

Society webpage at <http://www.fgs.org>, the Texas State Genealogical Society webpage at <http://www.txsgs.org> and the Federation of Genealogical Societies webpage at <http://www.fgs.org> for updated information on upcoming conferences, presentations, and other information and resources.

As I remind you every month, be sure and read the rest of this newsletter for the latest information on upcoming local genealogy events and check the Denton Public Library web site. Also, be sure and pick up the latest Classes & Events pamphlet published by the Denton Public Library. These are available in the genealogy area of the library.

Regards,

Terry Brantley

President, Denton County Genealogical Society

HOW TO FIND A REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT (continued)

Those who didn't serve directly in a military capacity may have helped in other ways, such as providing goods, supplies, or non-military service to the cause. Women also participated in the American Revolution, sometimes as spies, and a very few even fought in battles while disguised as male soldiers.

If your ancestor served as a Patriot and lived long enough after the war to apply for a pension, you can probably find a pension application for him. Almost all federal pension applications have survived, even the applications of those who were later turned down. In most cases, the veterans had to prove they were true veterans and therefore eligible for pensions. The "proof" often consisted of testimonials from relatives, neighbors, or from other military veterans with whom they served. Such testimonials often provide a wealth of genealogy information, frequently mentioning parents, spouses, siblings, and children. Even the applications that were eventually rejected can be valuable to today's genealogists.

Before 1818, national pension laws concerning

veterans of the Revolution specified disability or death of a serviceman as the basis for a pension award (with the exception of the Continental Congress resolution of May 15, 1778, granting half pay to officers for service alone). On March 18, 1818, the U. S. Congress granted pensions to Revolutionary War veterans for service from which no disabilities resulted. Officers and enlisted men in need of assistance were eligible under the terms of the 1818 act if they had served in a Continental military organization or in the U. S. naval service (including the Marines) for 9 months or until the end of the war. Pensions granted under this act were to continue for life.



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HOW TO FIND A REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT (continued)

Congress passed another service-pension act on May 15, 1823, which granted full pay for life to surviving officers and enlisted men of the Revolutionary War who were eligible for benefits under the terms of the Continental Congress resolution of May 15, 1778, as amended.

The last and most liberal of the service-pension acts benefiting Revolutionary War veterans was passed on June 7, 1832, and extended the provisions of the law of May 15, 1828 to even more veterans. The act provided that every officer or enlisted man who had served at least 2 years in the Continental Line or State troops, volunteers or militia, was eligible for a pension of full pay for life. Naval and marine officers and enlisted men were also included. Veterans who had served less than 2 years, but not less than 6 months, were eligible for pensions of less than full pay. While thousands applied for pensions under the earlier acts of Congress, this final act of 1832 was the one that saw the most applications. In 1832, all of the living veterans would have been at least 72 years old. Many had already died, either from war injuries or from unrelated causes. In many cases, widows of veterans applied for benefits based on a husband's service. In most cases, widows' applications provided even more family information than did the applications received from actual veterans.

On July 29, 1848, Congress provided life pensions for widows of veterans who were married before January 2, 1800. All restrictions pertaining to the date of marriage were removed by acts of February 3, 1853, and February 28, 1855. On March 9, 1878, widows of Revolutionary War soldiers who had served for as few as 14 days, or were in any engagement, were declared eligible for life pensions. This was still an issue in 1878 because many older veterans had married younger women, resulting in a large number of widows obtaining benefits 108 years or more after the birth of their husbands.

Follow the Money – Tracking Revolutionary War Army Pension Payments by Claire Prechtel-Klusens is a great tutorial on researching Revolutionary War pension applications. The tutorial may be found at <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2008/winter/follow-money.html>.

Revolutionary War pension applications may be found in their entirety on Fold3.com at <http://www.fold3.com> along with many Revolutionary War service records, final payment vouchers for several states, many Revolutionary War rolls, and more.

RootsWeb at <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com> is another good place for identifying Patriot ancestors, although the site is not easily searched. The information there is submitted by other RootsWeb users so accuracy is not guaranteed. In fact, the site is plagued with many errors but you will find it easier to start with other people's research and then gather the required documentation yourself from other sources that is needed to validate the research than to try to research something entirely from scratch. As always with any genealogy claims, you need to independently verify each piece of information you obtain on RootsWeb.

Census Records for 1790 and the early 1800s also can be very helpful in identifying Revolutionary War ancestors. The census records may be found on MyHeritage.com, Ancestry.com. FamilySearch.org also has many census records available online although not all of them.

If you are unsuccessful at proving connections via the above online resources, you will need to resort to printed books and microfilm images as many of the needed records are not yet online.

If you have identified an ancestor born between 1710 and 1765 who was living in 1775-1776, check the online DAR Patriot Index to see if your ancestor is listed. If the answer is yes, someone else has submitted an approved DAR application for your ancestor; you will want to see more details in that application. If the answer is no, your ancestor could still be a Revolutionary War patriot; however, no one has submitted an approved DAR application for him/her. A DAR Patriot INDEX (not the full records) is available at http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search/?Tab_ID=1. Other books to be searched include numerous compilations or source records from various states, land grants made years later as a result of Revolutionary War service, and even books about various generals and admirals that may mention some of the men who served under them.

You can find many such books in your local library and at [Google Books](#). For example, I looked in [Google Books](#) and found a biography of Revolutionary War Captain John Paul Jones that mentioned one of my ancestors, a Marine who served on board the Ranger under the command of Jones. You never know what you will find until you look!

As with any genealogy effort, a bit of perseverance may provide records you never knew about – and very possibly contribute facts about your ancestors that you never knew.

(Source: *Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter*)

FEBRUARY 2016 MINUTES

The February 2016 meeting of the Denton County Genealogical Society was called to order by President Terry Brantley at 6:50 p.m.

Members Present: 36

Visitors Present: 5

Agenda Topic: Approval of January 14, 2015 meeting minutes:

Motion to approve minutes as presented made by Walta Evans. Seconded by Marilyn Simms. Unanimously approved.

Agenda Topic: Treasurer's report:

Motion to approve report as presented made by Jane Ingram. Seconded by Susan Waggoner. Unanimously approved.

Announcements:

1. Volunteers for the Nominating Committee are needed by the February meeting. The committee will consist of 2 Officers and 3 members. Please contact any officer to volunteer.
2. On February 20, 2016 the program "Free Online Genealogy Sources" will be held at the Emily Fowler Library from 3 pm to 5 pm.

Newbie Session:

1. Family Tree Maker has been purchased by Software MacKiev and will offer both Mac and Windows versions. Eventually, it will be synced with Ancestry. Roots Magic and Legacy have instructions for moving to each of these formats.
2. Laura Douglas will present "Researchin Texas Pioneers" on March 17, "Beginning Genealogy" will be presented. Kimberly Wells will present "Tips and Tricks for using Family Search" on May 21. Each program will be presented at the Emily Fowler Library from 3 pm to 5 pm.

Program: "Epidemics and Genealogy" by Kimberly Wells:

1. Clusters of deaths can be found on headstones, indicating an epidemic. Other indications can be found in the local newspapers, including the front pages.
2. Immigration patterns, mass graves with only one marker

will also indicate epidemics. Names of attending physicians are listed on the back of some mass grave markers. Some camps will indicate the specific disease on the markers.

3. The average deaths from Small Pox was 15%. George Washington contracted Small Pox while in Barbados. After returning to the States, he inoculated his troupes. Approximately 130,000 died from Small Pox. Politics played a large role in inoculating the general population.

4. Native Americans had no natural immunities.

5. Yellow Fever symptoms only lasted 3 or 4 days before the patient's organs began to fail. Between 1817 and 1905, 41,000 died from the disease.

6. Local Historical Records found online may list victims.

Funeral Home records, doctor's records as well as local Genealogy, Library blogs and Probate records can be searched.

7. Scarlet Fever is caused by the Strep virus. The most vulnerable age group was between ages 5 and 15 years.

8. The Diphtheria Epidemic in the New England area we during 1739 and 1740.

9. The Iditarod Race was started to deliver Cholera serum to northern Alaska residents.

10. Malaria, also called Remitting Fever claimed 1 million Union soldier victims. In 1870 it spread throughout the southern states. Typhoid Fever claimed 81,000 Union soldiers.

11. Tuberculosis was also called Consumption. The epidemic prompted national campaigns for citizens to refrain from spitting.

12. The Influenza epidemic started in 1817, 3% to 5% of the world population was lost. 15 to 20 year olds had 20 times the death rate of previous epidemics. 650,000 were killed.

13. The Spanish Flu was so named because it was first reported by Spanish newspapers. A cook at Ft. Riley, KS initially spread the disease in the U.S.

Next meeting will be March 10, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Jane Ingram, Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance February 1, 2016 \$3,169.01

2015-2016 Paid Members – 85

Deposits:

-None-

Total \$0

Library Donations

April 1995 – May 2006 \$2,876.52

June 2006 – June 2012 \$3,310.00

July 2012 – to date \$512.45

Disbursements:

Memorial Book, \$31.95
G, Brenholtz

Total \$31.95

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Touraine, Treasurer



Balance February 29, 2016 \$3,137.06

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Programs

Researching Texas Pioneers

Learn about the early colonies and where to find information on your Texan forebears or if you are just interested in Texas history.

Sat 3/19 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

Beginning Genealogy

Learn the basics of genealogy research in this introductory class. Topics include: gathering family information, using genealogical forms, accessing vital records, locating census records, and using the resources available in the Emily Fowler Special Collections.

Sat 4/9 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

Tips and Tricks for using Familysearch.org

Learn the best way to use one of the best free genealogy websites. We will focus on searching

records, ordering microfilm and even becoming an indexer.

Sat 5/21 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

Denton County Genealogical Society

Meet fellow genealogists, share tips, & learn new information.

2/11 Kimberly Wells: Historical Epidemics and Migration

Emily Fowler 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

3/10 Lynelle Moss: Land and Property Records
Emily Fowler 6:30—8:30 p.m.

4/14 Diana White: History of the DCGS; The Peters Colony and Emigration to Texas
Emily Fowler 6:30—8:30 p.m.

5/12 Round Robin Personal Experiences
Emily Fowler 6:30—8:30 p.m.

The Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center Adds a new Discovery Center and Oral History Room

Technology has transformed genealogy research, so the famous Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center has remodeled some of its space to build on those advances. This Thursday, the Genealogy Center, which is located in the downtown library, will hold a grand opening for its new Discovery Center and new Life Stories Center.

The remodeling work, which began in December, was

paid for with a \$240,000 grant from the Allen County Public Library Foundation, a fundraising arm of the Fort Wayne library system. No taxpayer money was used.

You can learn about this new addition in an article by Kevin Kilbane in the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel at <http://goo.gl/sHOFrX>.

2014-2016 OFFICERS

President—Terry Brantley

Vice-President—Perry Abernethy

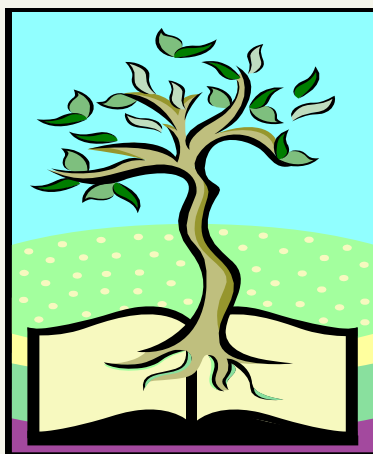
Secretary—Jane Ingram

Treasurer—Linda Touraine

Librarian—Kathy Strauss

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Membership—Linda Johnson



**NEXT MEETING OF THE
DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
April 14, 2016
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

**D E N T O N C O U N T Y
G E N E A L O G I C A L S O C I E T Y**

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201