

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

JANUARY MEETING THURSDAY JANUARY 11, 2018



1896- Denton County Courthouse-

Program: The First-Landowners Map Project and Upcoming Research Tools from HistoryGeo.com

Speaker: Greg Boyd

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

Early and first-landowner maps have long been a secret weapon in the arsenals of our most astute genealogists. HistoryGeo.com provides the easiest way to view the first landowners (and their neighbors) in map-form in 30 states. Over 12.5 million people are presented in a single map, enabling easy and often groundbreaking discoveries for its users.

Tonight's presentation will show the kinds of discoveries one can expect to make while using HistoryGeo's First Landowners project, as well as how to make those discoveries. On top of that, Greg Boyd, HistoryGeo's creator, will present demonstrations of two totally unique new tools scheduled for release in the near future.

Thousands of professional and life-long genealogists turn to HistoryGeo.com after they've tackled the "easy stuff". They know that understanding the

PLACES from which their ancestors come, and the kinds of people who migrated there, is essential to cracking those tough genealogical cases. In this presentation, we'll show you how to make these kinds of discoveries, just like the pros.

Greg Boyd is President of Arphax Publishing Co. (www.arphax.com), and developer of the award-winning subscription service, HistoryGeo.com. He is an avid cartographer, genealogist and career-long software designer. He combines those passions to help answer historical questions with new technologies. Since 2003, he has worked alongside Vicki Boyd, his wife of 36 years, to improve the research-results of today's genealogists and historians.

Greg earned both B.A. (Political Science) and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Oklahoma and is a licensed attorney.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow members:

The Christmas holidays are past us now and we are into the second half of our 2017-2018 year. I hope your time with your family was as great as ours.

Now, we can move forward into our new year with our first presentation by Greg Boyd who will be speaking about: **The First-Landowners Map Project and Upcoming Research Tools from HistoryGeo.com.**

As I did back in January, 2015, I'm going to suggest some (revised) New Years Resolutions for you:

1. Remember to wear your new DCGS name-tag lanyard to each meeting!
2. Attend all the meetings of the DCGS.
3. Benefit all of our members by volunteering to give a presentation if you have helpful information in a particular area.
4. Make use of all the excellent resources (and very helpful people) available at the Denton Public

Library.

As always, please bring us YOUR stories about your research and the results you've found, the walls you've come up against and climbed over, the memories you've discovered, and those new trails you've gone down with your latest DNA matches.

Be sure and read the rest of this newsletter for the latest information on upcoming genealogical events, and also check the City of Denton Public Library web site.

Be sure and pick up the latest Classes & Events pamphlet published by the Denton Public Library. These are available in several areas of the library.

Regards,

Terry Brantley

A GIS Mapping Project to Accurately Document Every Grave in a Waxahachie Cemetery

A **Geographic Information System** (GIS Software) is designed to store, retrieve, manage, display, and analyze all types of geographic and spatial data. It stores data on geographical features and their characteristics. Surveyors and cartographers use GIS technology extensively. The same technology can be used to document cemeteries. Waxahachie, Texas is one of the latest cities to use GIS technology to document history at the Waxahachie City Cemetery.

The mapping project will record biographical information of each person buried as well as the location of each grave. This information will then be put into an interactive map that residents can view through the city's website. The result will be a map that will have a look similar to a Google map. It will be an aerial view that will show the terrain of the cemetery. The map will show the different sections and allow people to zoom in and out.

By clicking on a headstone shown on the map, a list all of the information contained on the headstone will be displayed. It will include military service if such information is listed on the marker and will have a link where people can view a photo of the headstone. The precise location of the grave will be listed as well.

You can read more about the Waxahachie City Cemetery project in an article by Andrew Branca in the Waxahachietx.com Daily Light at <http://bit.ly/2BcjJHv>.

Source: *Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter*

NOVEMBER 2017 MINUTES

Terry Brantley, President called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. 26 members and 4 visitors were present. Two of the visitors became members. Terry thanked all veterans present. Motion to approve the October meeting minutes, as presented in the newsletter, was made by Sandra Robertson and seconded by Walta Evans. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the Treasurer’s report, as presented in the newsletter, was made by Jane Ingram and seconded by Kathy Coatney . Motion passed unanimously.

The Library genealogy programs schedule for the next 3 months can be found in the brochure and online.

Newbie Session: A member has discovered a death record in Stonewall county that has not been recorded in the state death records.

Karen Franklin presented the program “The Stedman Story: Mystery, Intrigue, Adoption and DNA”.

Dayonne Work had forwarded the research records of Dentonite Jon Stedman. Stedman willed funds to have the records compiled. Through his DNA test results, a 37 year old adoptee has been able to locate her biological mother and father. Jon was #68 to have his DNA tested by Family Tree in 2001. He discovered his father had been married three times and changed his name from Jesse Oppenheimer to John Stedman. He abandoned his first wife and four children. Jon was the product of his second marriage in Oklahoma. He went on to marry a third time. Jon spent many years in Denton searching for his father’s records. The earliest Oppenheimer immigrants came to the US in the 1820s.

Next meeting will be January 11, 2018.
Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Ingram, Secretary



TREASURER’S REPORT

Balance Oct. 31, 2017 **\$2,352.88**

Deposits:
Dues, 2017-2018 \$210.00
Donations 40.00

Total Income: **\$250.00**

Disbursements:
-None-0

Total Disbursements **\$.00**

Balance Dec. 31, 2017 **\$2,602.88**

2017-2018 Paid Members – 43

Library Donations	
April 1995 – May 2006	\$2,876.52
June 2006 – June 2012	\$3,310.00
July 2012 – December, 2017	\$1,961.34

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Touraine, Treasurer



Using the U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules

Almost all experienced genealogists have used the census records to find ancestors. However, how many of us have used the Census Mortality Schedules? In fact, I have to wonder how many of us even know what the U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules are? And why would we find them to be valuable?

In 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, and 1900, the U.S. census enumerators were required to collect all the normal census information plus even more: information about all persons dying within the 12 months preceding the census taking. These lists are known as the “Mortality Schedules”.

Mortality data can prove very useful in your research. For instance, for several years I suspected that a man found in the Massachusetts census records was my great-great-grandfather. I hadn’t found proof, but the circumstantial evidence was almost overwhelming: he had the correct name, lived in the same area that my later, proven ancestors lived, had the correct number of children as mentioned in a family history book, and more. In fact, I really wanted to prove my descent from this Revolutionary War soldier who spent the winter at Valley Forge in the Continental Army under the command of George Washington. (Most Revolutionary soldiers served in the militia, not in the Continental Army.) I searched hard for the proof.

The Revolutionary War veteran was found in every U.S. census from 1790 through 1840, all the years that only listed the Head of Household. He was there every year, living in the same town, living with numerous children in the early 1800s and then, as the years went by, with fewer and fewer children. While he was listed from 1790 through 1840, he was missing in the 1850 and later census records. Unfortunately, the 1850 census was the first U.S. census to list all household members. For several years, I went looking elsewhere for information about him.

One day, early in my genealogy “career,” I discovered the Mortality Schedule for 1850. I looked and, sure enough, the man I had been looking for was listed as having passed away in 1849. That explained why he was not listed in the 1850 and later census records. Even more interesting was the information provided: name, sex, age, color, widowed or not, place of birth, month of death, occupation, and cause of death.

The 1850 Mortality Schedule proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that this man was **NOT** my ancestor. The place of birth was not what I had expected. Armed with the date of death, I was then able to find an obituary in an 1849 newspaper for this man that documented his war record and listed the family members who survived him. This was definitely not my man.

Was this a success story? I would say, “Yes.” **Disproving information is as valuable as or sometimes even more valuable than proving it.** If nothing else, disproving the theory freed my research efforts to look elsewhere. I was no longer “barking up the wrong tree.”

Mortality Schedules are not available for all states and years. The 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses contained questions regarding those who died in the twelve months prior to the enumeration. The answers were compiled in separate “Mortality Schedules” that typically are kept separate from the census returns. The Mortality Schedules list persons who died between 1 June and 31 May of the year prior to the census.

Enumerators were asked to record a lot of information about individuals who died in the year previous to the census. The 1850 schedule, for example, includes information about individuals who died between 1 June 1849 and 31 May 1850. In 1850 and 1860, entries included the name of the deceased, their age at death, sex, color, status (free or slave), marital status (married or widowed), place of birth (state, territory or county), the month of death, occupation, disease or cause of death, and the number of days the individual was ill. In 1870, a new question asked if the father and/or mother were of foreign birth, but no longer included how many days the individual was ill. The 1880 census added categories for the place of birth of the deceased’s mother and father, how long the deceased had been a resident of the county, where the disease was contracted if not at the place of death, and the name of the attending physician. In both 1870 and 1880, a family number is included which ties the entry back to a specific entry in the population enumeration (and vice versa).

The 1850 and 1860 Mortality Schedules may be the only records available listing a slave ancestor. However, slave deaths apparently were underreported; many who are known to have died within the timeframe covered were never recorded in the Mortality Schedules. The 1890 Mortality Schedules were recorded but were later destroyed in the same fire that destroyed the rest of the census records. In 1900, a Mortality Schedule was compiled, statistics were collected, and then original records were later deliberately destroyed by order of an act of Congress. Some years later, a copy of the 1900 Mortality Schedule for Minnesota was discovered at the Minnesota Historical Society and subsequently was published. This is the only known surviving 1900 mortality schedule for any state.

Here is a list of states that have some census mortality schedules available for various years from 1850-1885 — not all states are covered for all years. You’ll need to check the microfilm catalog to see which years are covered: Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida (1885 State Census only/not all counties included), Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico (1885 Territorial Census only), New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont (1870 only), Virginia, and Washington.

Over the years, various local and state genealogy societies have published indexes to many of the mortality schedules. Similarly, county indexes and transcriptions may also be available, mostly published only on paper.

It is important to remember that the information is available only for the year immediately preceding the census, and even then, the information was probably under-reported. One estimate claims that 20 to 40 percent of deaths were not included. However, no one can verify that estimate. Of course, if your ancestor died in the nine years preceding each Mortality Schedule, he or she will never be listed. One advantage of Mortality Records is that they normally list the cause of death. Of course, you will find the usual causes associated with old age, but many records will list the cause of death as murdered, struck by a train, gas explosion (houses were often illuminated by gas lights), and similar causes of premature deaths. In such cases, a trip to view local newspaper obituaries often provides additional clues about the death as well as lists of surviving relatives. The newspaper obituaries also often name the parents of the deceased, even if they passed away years earlier.

NEWS AND PROGRAMS FROM THE LIBRARY

Denton County Genealogical Society

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

Thu Emily Fowler 6:30 p.m

01/11 The First-Landowners Map Project and Upcoming Research Tools from HistoryGeo.com presented by Greg Boyd

02/08 Exploration and Discovery: FamilySearch & Ancestry Home Pages presented by Walta Evans

Introducing the Memory Maker Space Digital Conversion Lab

Photographs, home movies, and paper documents are an important part of an individual's history but analog and paper materials degrade over time. Learn about the new self-service digital conversion lab that provides users with the tools and the training to digitize their materials independently. The overview will cover the equipment and software in the lab and answer general questions about lab use. Registration requested.

Sat. 01/13 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. Registration requested.

Fri 01/19 Emily Fowler 10 a.m.

Freedman Town 2.0

Carla LynDale Carter-Bishop will discuss *Freedman Town 2.0*, an interactive documentary which utilizes Augmented Reality to tell the rich history of Denton's black community. This documentary uses landmarks and photographs of community members to activate short videos that tell untold stories about Freedman Town, the first black settlement in Denton, Quakertown, and Southeast Denton. This project was created by college students in UNT's department of Media Arts in a summer course taught by Ms. Carter-Bishop.

Sat 02/03 Emily Fowler 3:30 p.m.

To Have and To Hold: Marriage Records As a Link to Your Ancestors

Marriage records are considered the oldest of the vital records. This presentation by Kathy Strauss, will consider the jurisdictions governing these records, the types of marriage records available, and how to locate these records. Registration requested.

Sat 02/17 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

What's So Special about Special Collections?

Take a tour and discover the Genealogy, Denton History, and Texas History resources we have to help you with your research. Registration requested.

Thu 02/22 Emily Fowler 7 p.m.

Using the U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules (continued)

Mortality Schedules can be important to your research. As in my earlier example, the Mortality Schedules can provide detailed information about individuals who were deceased at the time of a normal census. For slave ancestors, Mortality Schedules may be the only record still available for many individuals.

Many states did not compile death records until the late 1800s or early 1900s. In those cases, Mortality Schedules may be the only record that documents a death date and provides any supporting information. Mortality Schedules are valuable records for genealogists, records that

are often overlooked.

The *U.S., Federal Census Mortality Schedules Index* (1850 only), is available online at no charge on FamilySearch.org at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1420441?collectionNameFilter=false>, and for 1850 through 1880 on Mortality-Schedules.com at <http://www.mortality-schedules.com/>, and on Ancestry.com (limited to Ancestry subscribers only) at: <https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3530>. Have you checked the Mortality Schedules?

2016-2018 OFFICERS

President—Terry Brantley

Vice-President—Perry Abernethy

Secretary—Jane Ingram

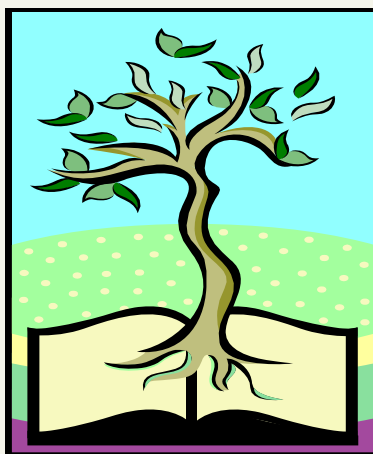
Treasurer—Linda Touraine

Librarian—Laura Douglas

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Membership—Vickie Whitfield

Newsletter Editor—Kathy Strauss



**NEXT MEETING OF THE
DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
FEB 8, 2018
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201