

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 8, 2018



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: "Saving My Ancestors' Historic Texas Cemetery"

Speaker: Donna Spears

Ms. Spears will talk about how she and her husband, Joe, learned about her father's pioneer ancestors who moved to Dallas County in the early 1850's. In 2013 Donna and Joe visited a small, abandoned family graveyard in South Dallas expecting to find a son-in-law's grave. In addition, they found the 1866 gravestone of Thomas M. Smith – Donna's great, great, great grandfather. The presentation includes their search of old deeds, and dealings with; an uncooperative surrounding land owner, the Texas Historical Commission, an attorney, a lawsuit, a retracement surveyor, and more as they fought to keep the surrounding land owner from building a parking lot on

the Smith Family Cemetery.

Joe and Donna Spears have been members of the Denton County Genealogical Society for several years. They got serious about genealogy in 2009 after Donna retired from her 20-year career as a technical writer. Joe and Donna met as young members of the Tarrant County 4-H Club program where they were good friends for many years. They lost contact when the US Army sent Joe to Vietnam but got back in touch in 1980. After their 1981 marriage at The Little Chapel in the Woods on the TWU campus, the couple built a log home in Argyle where they live today. Besides genealogy, they are busy square dancers. Donna, a graduate of Denton High School and TWU, serves as Chair of the Lineage Research Committee of the Benjamin Lyon chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Program: "Saving My Ancestors' Historic Texas Cemetery" Speaker: Donna Spears	1
President's Message First Genetic Map of Ireland Unlocks Secrets of Ancestors	2
February Minutes Treasurer's Report	3
Online U.S. Atlas of Historical County Boundaries By Dick Eastman	4
News and Programs from the Library A Digital Project is Underway to Recreate Ireland's Public Record Office Destroyed by Fire in 1922	5



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow members:

Our Nominating Committee is working on our new slate of officers for the 2018-2019 period. If you are interested in serving in one of the positions, please contact me, or any of the other officers and they will get your name to the Nominating Committee.

Joe and Donna Spears are giving a presentation at our upcoming meeting about their efforts in restoring a graveyard. Of course, more information is later in the newsletter. I talked to Joe and Donna before our last meeting and they told me some interesting "rest of the story" findings in their efforts. I'm not going to mention them here! You don't want to miss their presentation!

Again, your DCGS board of officers will be meeting before long to discuss business for the next year. If you have any suggestions for improving our meetings, please talk to, or email any of the board members with your ideas.

Also, we'll have our round-robin session in our May business meeting. I know that's two months away, but if you've made significant advances in your genealogical research, DNA research, -or- you've had

an interesting or enlightening experience please get ready to tell us about it.

If you have relatives, friends, or acquaintances interested in their family genealogy, invite them to come and visit our meeting.

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.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Please remember to wear your DCGS name-tag lanyard to the meeting!

Regards,

Terry Brantley

President, Denton County Genealogical Society

FIRST GENETIC MAP OF IRELAND UNLOCKS SECRETS ABOUT ANCESTORS

The first genetic map of the people of Ireland has been produced by scientists at the Royal College of Surgeons and by genealogical researchers at the Genealogical Society of Ireland. *The Irish DNA Atlas; Revealing Fine-Scale Population Structure and History within Ireland* has been published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

The study has found that prior to the mass movement of people in recent decades, there were at least 10 distinct genetic clusters found in specific regions across Ireland. It also revealed that seven of those clusters discovered so far are of 'Gaelic' Irish ancestry and match the borders of either Irish provinces or historical kingdoms. The other three are of shared Irish-British ancestry, and are mostly found in the north of Ireland and probably reflect the Ulster Plantations.

The Irish DNA Atlas also found that two of the 'Gaelic'

clusters together align with the boundaries of the province of Munster.

It also discovered that they are individually associated with the boundaries of the kingdoms of Dál Cais and the Eóganacht.

The Celtic and Viking influence was also evident in the findings with relatively high levels of North-West French-like and evidence of West Norwegian-like ancestry identified.

The *Irish DNA Atlas* may be found at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-17124-4>.

An introductory article explaining the study may be found in the NewsTalk web site at: <http://www.newstalk.com/New-study-gives-the-first-genetic-map-of-the-people-of-Ireland>.

FEBRUARY 2018 MINUTES

President Terry Brantley called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. 27 members were in attendance. Twelve visitors were present, 2 became members. Gary from the Robson Ranch Genealogy Society would like to be added to our mailing list. The group is exclusively for Robson Ranch residents and welcome visitors. The group as formed six years ago. They meet the first and third Tuesdays. They also have a help session on the third Wednesdays.

Marilyn Simms made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes as presented in the newsletter. Sandra Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Walta Evans made a motion to approve the Treasurers report as presented in the newsletter. Dayonne Work seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Volunteers are needed to serve on the nominating committee. Perry Abernethy volunteered to chair the committee. Vickie Whitfield also volunteered. Terry and Perry will recruit three others to serve.

Laura Douglas announced Kathy Strauss will present a program on marriage records on February 17 at 3:00 pm. On February 22 at 7:00 pm the program will be an overview of selections available at the library. Other scheduled programs will be listed in the program bulletin. The next edition of the bulletin should be available in 2 weeks. She is looking for someone to be the first to test the new Legacy Lab program.

NEWBIE SESSION: One member asked when DCGS was first formed. It began in 1979. Ancestry DNA price is

currently reduced to \$69.00.

PROGRAM: Exploration and Discovery: Family Search and Ancestry Home Pages by Walta Evans. She recently discovered the book "Links of Forever". It tells how important records are. Recently, she has experienced problems using both Ancestry and Family Search websites. She suspects both websites are making updates prior to the upcoming Roots Tech conference. Don't be afraid to click on a link as you can always go back to the home page and continue. Family Search requires a log in to search some sites, although there is no membership fee. She recommends checking the Blog and Site Map links. Ancestry's Shoebox will be discontinued soon. She only uses Family Search, Ancestry and a French site because those sites do not allow others to edit your records. Always remember that no one site has everything. You must search multiple sites. The LDS Denton Stake is located at 3000 Old North Road. The Family History Center is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 9 pm, Thursdays 11 am to 3 pm and Sundays 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Ancestry is available at the library and Fold 3 can be accessed from your home and the Family History Center. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27.

The next meeting will be March 8, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Ingram, Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT

NO REPORT FOR FEBRUARY



ONLINE U.S. ATLAS OF HISTORICAL COUNTY BOUNDARIES

by Dick Eastman

One of the more useful tools for genealogists is the *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries* created by the Newberry Library in Chicago. When I first started in genealogy, one of my biggest frustrations was trying to find records of ancestors in the county where they lived. Many genealogical records are created by counties. In many cases, I knew the town where they lived and I also knew what county the town was in. Yet I couldn't find the records that normally are kept in county courthouses, such as probate records or the deeds of land transfers.

As I gained more experience, I soon learned that the problem was mine. I had looked in the country records for the county lines of today. In many cases, the county lines had moved over the years, even though my ancestors had not moved an inch. Once recorded at the county courthouse, records normally remain at that courthouse forever, even if the county lines are redrawn later and the property or the town in question is then "moved" to a different county.

For instance, if your ancestor lived in the town of Smallville in Washington County when the information was recorded at the courthouse and later the county lines were redrawn so that town of Smallville and your ancestor's location were later in Lincoln County, you still need to look for older records in the Washington County courthouse. Existing courthouse records usually are not moved to a new courthouse when county lines are redrawn.

Experienced genealogists all know that you need to look in the county courthouse for the correct county as of the date the records were filed. But how do you find the the correct county lines as of the date(s) your ancestors lived

there and left records? You can find several books at well-equipped libraries that will provide that information. However, the *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries* will provide the information as well without requiring the time and travel expenses of visiting a well-equipped library. Yes, you can find the information without leaving home. The *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries* web site is available **FREE** of charge. You can even download the files to your own computer and save them or use them as you please. The online atlas has been available for years but I find that many genealogists are unaware of its existence and do not know how useful it can be.

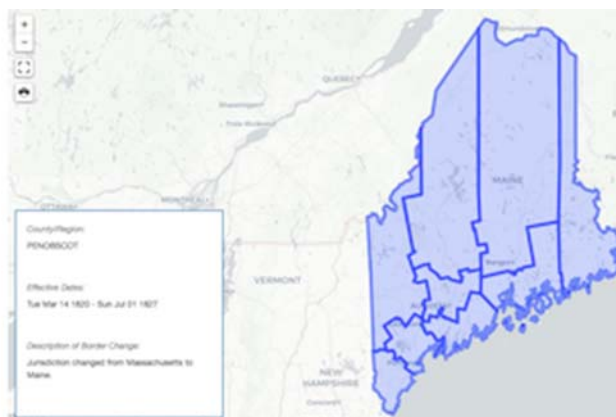
With the *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries*, you can view records on a per state basis, an interactive map, or choose the time slots that best meet your requirements. You can search by location or by time or by both. To use the web site for the first time, select a state from the map on the site's home page to view all of the Atlas' content related to that state, including shapefiles, chronologies, and metadata. If you cannot quickly find the information you seek, narrow the search by choosing from the available list of options. Probably the most useful option for genealogists is to display maps by dates.

A lot of helpful information about the site can be found on the "Using the Atlas" page at: <http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/usingatlas.html>. This is a web site worth bookmarking. You probably won't need to use it often but, if you do ever have a need, it can supply the information you seek quickly. The *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries* is available at the Newberry Library's web site at: <http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp>.

Historical Borders

Select Date of Border Change:

1800-03-15
1821-02-08
1821-02-28
1821-03-08
1821-03-17
1823-01-31
1824-02-17
1827-07-03
1830-03-06
1830-03-12
1830-03-17
1831-03-18



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

03/08 Saving My Ancestors' Historic Texas Cemetery presented by Donna D. Spears

04/12 Historic Graveyards as a Living History: The forgotten meaning behind historic graveyard symbols presented by Tui Snider

Avoid the Brick-Wall

Marilyn Simms, professed genealogy addict, will talk about her hunt for facts, records, places and stories about her family's history. In her research she has encountered many road blocks. This presentation is designed to suggest tactics you can try before your "road block" becomes a true "brick-wall" that you just cannot penetrate.

Sat 03/17 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

Genealogy Meet-up

Do you love talking about your genealogy research or family history? This meetup is the place to share and learn from others. Ask questions, share your knowledge, get help with your brick walls, and have access to the library and internet genealogical resources. Bring your laptops and light refreshments will be provided. Beginners to experts, all are welcome.

Fri 03/30 Emily Fowler 9:30 a.m.

Care and Identification of Photographs

Jessica Phillips, head of Preservation at the University of North Texas, will talk about simple ways to identify various photographic formats as well as guidelines for proper care and handling.

Fri 04/20 Emily Fowler 10 a.m.

ADIGITAL PROJECT IS UNDERWAY TO RECREATE IRELAND'S PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE DESTROYED BY FIRE IN 1922

A project is under way to digitally recreate the building and contents of the Public Record Office of Ireland, which were destroyed by an explosion and fire at Dublin's Four Courts in 1922. The six-story Victorian building went up in flames on 30 June 1922 during the Civil War. Seven centuries of Ireland's historical and genealogical records were lost, seemingly forever.

However, thanks to new technology, historical research and careful archival practice, Trinity

College Dublin says these losses "are not irrecoverable". The "Beyond 2022: Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury" project will see the creation of a virtual reality reconstruction of the Public Record Office.

The completed virtual reality project will be made available on the centenary of the Four Courts fire in 2022. The project website is <http://www.beyond2022.ie>.

2016-2018 OFFICERS

President—Terry Brantley

Vice-President—Perry Abernethy

Secretary—Jane Ingram

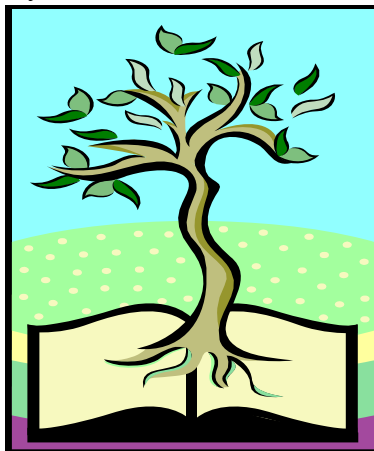
Treasurer—Linda Touraine

Librarian—Laura Douglas

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Membership—Vickie Whitfield

Newsletter Editor—Kathy Strauss



**NEXT MEETING OF THE DENTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WILL BE ON APRIL 12, 2018
Emily Fowler Central Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201