

# 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

## APRIL MEETING THURSDAY APRIL 12, 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](http://www.genealogydentontexas.org)

### Program: “Historic Graveyards as a Living History”

#### Speaker: Tui Snider

The forgotten meaning behind historic graveyard symbols.” Whether you are a genealogist, historian, ghost hunter, or curiosity seeker, this photo-laden presentation based on Tui Snider's latest book, *Understanding Cemetery Symbols*, reveals the forgotten meaning behind the architecture, acronyms, & symbols found in historic cemeteries.

Tui Snider is an award-winning author, photographer, musician, and speaker who specializes in quirky, haunted, and downright bizarre destinations. As she puts it, “I used to write fiction – but then I moved to Texas!” Tui's writing and photography has been featured by a variety

of outlets, including *Coast to Coast AM*, *FOX Travel News*, *Lone Star Literary Life*, *LifeHack*, *SkyEurope*, *Time Out*, *easyJet*, *Authentic Texas*, the City of Plano and more. Tui lectures frequently at universities, bookstores and conferences. She recently taught a series of classes based on her books at Texas Christian University.

Tui’s books inspired by the Lone Star state include *Paranormal Texas*, *The Lynching of the Santa Claus Bank Robber*, and *Unexpected Texas*. Her most recent book is an international best-seller called *Understanding Cemetery Symbols*. Tui loves connecting with writers and readers all over the globe as @TuiSnider on social media. You can also visit her website, [TuiSnider.com](http://TuiSnider.com), which features 600+ articles about historic graveyards as well as - you guessed it - quirky, haunted, and downright bizarre destinations.

### NGS to Live Stream Ten Genealogy Lectures During the Family History Conference in May

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) will live stream ten lectures by nationally recognized speakers on some of the most popular topics in the field of genealogy during its 2018 Family History Conference. These lectures will be among more than 175 offered at the conference, 2–5 May 2018, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. On 3 May, three live stream lectures will focus on DNA’s role in supplementing genealogical research. Two other talks will discuss African American and Loyalist research. The selections on May 4, feature lectures by the Board for Certification of

Genealogists (BCG) that emphasize research, analysis, and problem-solving skills. NGS members and non-members across the United States and overseas, who are unable to attend the conference in person, are invited to sign-up for these live stream broadcasts.

Registrants for live stream can sign up for a one-day or a two-day pass. Details about the live stream program, plus additional conference recordings, can be found on the [PlaybackNGS Website](#).

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow members:

Our Nominating Committee almost has our slate of officers for the 2018-2019 period ready for presentation to the group. 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.

As I stated before, the DCGS Executive Board will be meeting soon 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.

[We'll have our round-robin session during our May business meeting.](#) If you have an interesting story to tell our group about an experience you've had such as the one that Donna and Joe Spears gave at our last meeting, we would love to hear your story at our May meeting.

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

Our Treasurer, Linda Touraine will be accepting dues payments for this next year.

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

## 27 Public Libraries and the Internet Archive Launch “Community Webs” for Local History Web Archiving

I have to believe this could become a huge resource for genealogists. According to an announcement in the [Archive.org Blog](#):

“With generous support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, as well as the Kahle/Austin Foundation and the Archive-It service, the Internet Archive and 27 public library partners representing 17 different states have launched a new program: **Community Webs: Empowering Public Libraries to Create Community History Web Archives**. The program will provide education, applied training, cohort network development, and web archiving services for a group of public librarians to develop expertise in web archiving for the purpose of local memory collecting. Additional partners in the program include OCLC’s WebJunction training and education service and the public libraries of Queens, Cleveland and San Francisco will serve as “lead libraries” in the cohort. The program will result in dozens of terabytes of public library administered local history web archives, a range of open educational resources in the

form of online courses, videos, and guides, and a nationwide network of public librarians with expertise in local history web archiving and the advocacy tools to build and expand the network. A full listing of the participating public libraries is below and on the program website.”

This could result in huge online collections local history and information created by libraries nationwide. The list of participating libraries is impressive, ranging from big city libraries to one small town library near me. You can learn more at: <http://bit.ly/2IqBJ1>.



Source: *Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter*

## MARCH 2018 MINUTES

President Terry Brantley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. 23 members were in attendance. Four visitors were present, 1 became a member.

Marilyn Simms made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes as presented in the newsletter. Mary Tate seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. No transactions occurred in February, therefore, no Treasurers report was issued.

The nominating committee is working to prepare a slate of officers for the upcoming term. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Perry or Terry.

Laura Douglas announced upcoming Library programs. Marilyn Simms will present the March 17 program "Avoid the Brick Wall" at 3 pm. Genealogy Meet Up will be held March 30 at 9:30 am. "Care and Identification of Photographs" will be presented by Jessica Phillips on April 20 at 10 am. The new Legacy Lab program is now operational.

**NEWBIE SESSION:** One member asked questions about using My Heritage. Perry Abernethy related his sister's discoveries during a recent trip to Scotland. The University of Edinburgh has extensive records of all ministers of the Church of Scotland.

**PROGRAM:** "Saving My Ancestors' Historic Texas Cemetery" by Donna D. spears. Donna is an only child

born in Dallas. Her great great grandfather Thomas Smith was born in Bedford County, Tennessee in 1842 and is buried in the Lisbon Cemetery located one block west of the present Dallas VA Hospital. She and husband Joe located the cemetery and the owner of record. He disputed the deed they had found designating .22 acres as the Smith family cemetery stating it was handwritten and very old, therefore irrelevant. There were 3 tombstones and 2 bases still present. A long time neighbor remembered 16 grave stones. By 2015 the owner had removed all but one of the grove of old oak trees and spread gravel over almost all of the .22 acre (85 x 112 ft.) plot. After consulting an attorney, a temporary restraining order was issued. They began the application for historic cemetery designation, contracted a Ground Penetrating Radar report be prepared as well as genealogical records to prove she is an heir, etc. Ten grave sites were located and all four corners of each one now have GPS locations. They have installed a new fence and a new Smith family marker listing the seven children, spouses and some of the Thomas Smith grandchildren. In August 2016, the Texas Historical Cemetery designation was issued. The cemetery was named after Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Polly Smith. She was also called Lisbon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.  
The next meeting will be April 12, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Ingram, Secretary



## TREASURER'S REPORT

**Balance Mar. 1, 2018** **\$2,589.77**

**Deposits:**

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Dues 2017-2018 | \$45.00 |
| Research       | \$30.00 |

**Total Income:** **\$75.00**

**Disbursements:**

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| NGS Dues             | \$50.00 |
| Postage for newsltrs | \$50.00 |

**Total Disbursements** **\$100.00**

**Balance Mar. 31, 2018** **\$2,564.77**

2017-2018 Paid Members – 47

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| 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



## Bradshaw's Chili Wagon

By Laura Douglas



Way back in 2014 the Austin Street Truck Stop opened and Denton was pretty excited that we had a place for food trucks to park near the Square. Well, have you ever heard that saying “there’s nothing new under the sun?” Denton had a place on the square for a food truck back in the 1890’s. Well, that is using the term food truck loosely; it was actually a food wagon.

In the April 15, 1956 edition of the Denton Record-Chronicle William Edwards wrote a column about the Bradshaw Chili Con Carne Diner. (You can read the full article at the end of this post.) On a side note, it was Mr. Edwards who consolidated the *Denton Chronicle* and the *Denton County Record* to form the weekly newspaper, the *Denton Record and Chronicle* in 1899.

In the article he describes the chili wagon:

*“Probably twenty feet long, eight or ten feet wide, and high enough to provide headroom for patrons of six feet or taller. For light and ventilation it had glass windows on the sides, and there was an opening in the front through which the driver handled his team. At the rear was a door... and inside was the chili bar extending the full length of the room, behind it a walkway for use in serving the guests with a concoction of ground meat, much grease, beans (optional), chili peppers and other condiments. Scattered along the bar for those who wanted their chili “red hot” were bottles of “pepper-sass” that were the concentrated essence of hotness. At the front end was the stove on which the food was kept warm with its smokestack protruding through the roof.”*

While the “house on wheels” was originally pulled by two horses from Mr. Bradshaw’s home in southeast Denton to the square, it didn’t take too long before the chili wagon “became a permanent if somewhat unsightly fixture just outside the hitching chain at the southeast corner of the courthouse yard.”

And apparently the chili was pretty good and the price was right. Mr. Edwards wrote, “You could get a good-sized bowl with either crackers or light bread on the side for a nickel. But if you were really hungry – and what growing boy wasn’t – for a dime you could get a “big bowl” that was a full meal for even the hungriest.”

So who was this Mr. Bradshaw and what happened to the chili wagon? In the article Mr. Bradshaw was not given a first name and Mr. Edwards stated he was not sure when the chili wagon disappeared from the square. Of course, I had to see if I could find more information.

My starting point in the search was the 1900 U.S. Population Census. (You can access this via [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) or though the library’s subscription to [Ancestry Library Edition](http://Ancestry Library Edition).) I searched for any Bradshaws in Denton in 1900. Among the results was an entry for M.H. Bradshaw, 58 years old, from Virginia and under the Occupation column it read “Restaurant Pro”, which I interpreted to mean “Restaurant Proprietor.”

That was a good sign I was on the right track. I used census records, [Denton County land records](http://Denton County land records), early [Denton newspapers](http://Denton newspapers) and the Library’s [death](http://death) and [cemetery](http://cemetery) records to find out more information.

Mordecai Hawkins Bradshaw was born in Virginia in 1841 (or 1843, depending on the source) and married Mary E. Wimberley in Lafayette, Mississippi on June 30, 1873. They had five children; Mordecai, Ophelia, John, Lawrence, and David. The March 14, 1901 issue of the *Denton County News* reported his death on page 4. “CITY PHYSICIAN’S REPORT – DEATHS. March 7, M. H. Bradshaw, aged 57 years; apoplexy.” Mr. Bradshaw and other members of his family are buried in [Oakwood cemetery](http://Oakwood cemetery)

While the only mention of a restaurant I found was in the census, there was another clue I had the right person. Mr. Bradshaw’s daughter, Ophelia Bradshaw, married Asbury Goodson Price. The article by Mr. Edwards mentions that Mr. Bradshaw had a relative, Goodson Price, who sold tamales. As for the chili wagon, one can only imagine that it was put out to pasture after Mr. Bradshaw’s death.

And one last-side note- it seems that Bradshaw Street in Southeast Denton was named after this family.





## 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

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

### 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.**

### Picturing Family History: Using Photographs to Discover Genealogical Clues

Learn how to use clues to identify family photographs and tips for preserving and sharing them. Ann McKee inherited 131 photographs of her mother's family, her research allowed her to identify 110 of them. She will discuss how to use the provenance of photographs to figure out when and where it was taken and how to determine which individuals may be pictured.

Registration requested.

**Sat. 05/05 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.**

### Family History Fair

This free event features a mixture of live presentations by area genealogy experts, informational displays, and video presentations from RootsTech 2018, with an emphasis on the relationships between FamilySearch and other genealogy research services. There will be hands on instruction labs for FamilySearch Family Tree and Online Indexing. For more information contact the Denton Family History Center Director, Eric Kaszynski

by email at [ekaszynski@gmail.com](mailto:ekaszynski@gmail.com).

**Sat. 05/19 Denton Family History Center - [3000 Old North Road](#) 8 a.m. to 2 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. 05/25, 06/22, 07/27, 08/24 Emily Fowler 9:30 a.m.**

### Social Networking for Genealogists

Social networking may not be the first thing genealogists think of when doing research but there is a wealth of information to be found online in popular websites like Facebook, YouTube and others. Join us as we explore how this exploding area of communication can help your genealogy research. Registration requested.

**Fri. 06/08 Emily Fowler 10 a.m.**

### Save your Memoires

Learn more about the new digital conversion equipment that can be used to preserve your family history by converting your photos, home videos, and paper documents to digital formats. The overview will cover the equipment and software in the lab, in the Genealogy department at the Emily Fowler Central Library, and answer general questions about lab use. Registration requested.

**Sat. 06/16 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.**

### 2016-2018 OFFICERS

**President—Terry Brantley**

**Vice-President—**

**Secretary—Jane Ingram**

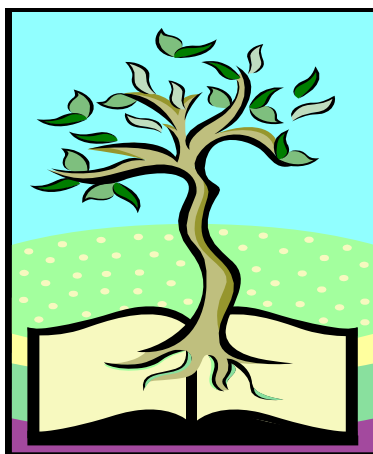
**Treasurer—Linda Touraine**

**Librarian—Laura Douglas**

**Webmaster—Chris Strauss**

**Membership—Vickie Whitfield**

**Newsletter Editor—Kathy Strauss**



**NEXT MEETING OF THE  
DENTON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY WILL BE ON  
MAY 10, 2018  
Emily Fowler Central  
Library  
502 Oakland St.  
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street  
Denton, TX 76201