

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

NOVEMBER MEETING THURSDAY NOV 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: “Proving Long-Lost Family the Indirect Way: Finding the Ancestors of F.N. Raymond”

Speaker: Patti Gillespie

Sometimes we have to go all the way around before we can prove what is right in front of us; sometimes the censuses don't tell us the relationships in a household, or even the names of the household. This is a presentation chock full of courthouse records and research with a resolution to a mystery that has been misunderstood for

decades. Hold on for the ride as this “long way round,” indirect presentation offers hope for those with direct brick walls.

An English and French teacher for 20 years, Patti Gillespie, BA, MA, now enjoys a career of genealogical instruction and research. Patti began speaking on genealogical topics to local societies and genealogy seminars, and liked it so much that she kept right on. She is a committee chairman for the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), and she is active in her local Genealogical and County Historical Association activities. Patti also has started Family Lines, her own research and life story business, and can be found on Linked In.

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VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military – in wartime or peacetime. It should not be confused with Memorial Day which is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their county, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.

Veterans Day does not include an apostrophe but does include an “s” at the end of “veterans” because it is not a day that “belongs” to veterans. It is a day for honoring all veterans.

Veterans Day is always observed officially on November 11, regardless of the day of

the week. Major hostilities of World War I ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the armistice with Germany went into effect. The U.S. holiday was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

Source: https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetday_faq.asp



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone enjoyed our October program by Dr. Courtney Welch and picked up some ideas and pointers to help you write about your ancestors. If you are interested in participating in our new writers group called GenPen, contact [Beth Leggieri](#) who is "driving that bus".

I attended my first Genealogy Lock-In on Friday, October 19, at the Emily Fowler Library, and I have to say that it was a premier event. Sign me up for next year. We should be proud to have a library that has such an exceptional staff and is a cutting-edge leader in so many ways.

At our next meeting we will discuss and begin work on projects which preserve Denton's history. That is one of the major objectives of our society. Think about how you are going to contribute your time and your talent. Also, be sure to complete and return to Deb Reed by email the Membership Data form.

I know we will all learn a lot from this month's speaker, Patti Gillespie from Decatur. She is a delightful, entertaining person and a very capable professional genealogist and researcher. We are bringing her back in March to present her beginner program on DNA.

Veterans Day, November 11, 2018, marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. Take some time to reflect on all of the veterans in your family no matter when or where they served our nation.

Remember to arrive at our meetings at 6:30 p.m. so you don't miss a minute of welcoming guests and talking to fellow members. And always wear your lanyards and name tags.

Joe Spears
Email: argyleiris@verizon.net

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Oct. 1, 2018	\$2,969.77
Deposits:	
Dues 2018-2019	\$155.00
Total Income:	\$155.00
Disbursements:	
Dr. Courtney Welch, [Oct. program]	\$ 75.00
Total Disbursements	\$ 75.00
Balance Oct. 31, 2018	\$3,049.77

2018-2019 Paid Members – 42

Library Donations	
April 1995 – May 2006	\$2,876.52
June 2006 – June 2012	\$3,310.00
July 2012 – September 2018	\$1,961.34

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Touraine, Treasurer



OCTOBER 2018 MINUTES

President Joe Spears called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed everyone, introduced himself, and especially thanked Walta Evans for the refreshments.

Membership Chair Deb Reed introduced five visitors: Lisa Ross, Marielle Inman, Eileen O'Neill, John Windsor, and former member Shelley Tucker. Lisa Ross, Eileen O'Neill, John Windsor, and Shelley Tucker joined. Members also in attendance: 27

BUSINESS

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

President Spears announced that the Board would like to expand the Membership Directory to include information about members' ancestor families, research locations, etc. To compile members' info, the Board will prepare a questionnaire for members to complete. More details will follow.

REPORTS

The Minutes of the September meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. Motion was made by Terry Brantley, seconded by Walta Evans. The Treasurer's Report as published in the newsletter was filed for audit.

OFFICER VACANCIES

President Spears explained that the by-laws do not explicitly state how to fill officer vacancies and defer to Robert's Rules of Order for anything *not* covered. The Rules of Order state the Executive Board can appoint replacements (...*the Executive Board shall manage the affairs of the Society in the intervals between meetings*), Article VII, Section 2. However, President Spears suggested the membership body elect the Board's recommendations and that they serve the remainder of the current term through May 2020.

Secretary: Minna Marinko has agreed to serve and is recommended by the Board. Marilyn Simms made a motion to elect; Chris Strauss seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Treasurer: Linda Touraine has agreed to serve and is recommended by the Board. Eric Kaszynski made a motion to elect; Donna Spears seconded. Vote was unanimous.

PROGRAM

Program Chairman Eric Kaszynski presented two options about DNA for our March program, to be presented by Patti Gillespie: a beginner level or an intermediate level program. Membership voted 14 to 9 for the beginner program but expressed interest in also having the intermediate level program as soon after March as possible. Eric will check on availability and report later.

Rather than no meeting in December, he suggested a Christmas Party. The President called for a show of hands of people interested in having a Christmas Party. Four members raised their hands. Chris Strauss suggested using the Genealogy Meet-Up format with holiday refreshments. The Board will discuss and report.

Joe reminded all about the October 19 Genealogy Lock-In (participants must register). He announced that in November Laura Douglas will describe how the Society can help with special projects.

Ten-Minute Tip. Donna Spears presented a tip (and a handout) on how to find an image in FamilySearch which is showing "No Image" on Ancestry.com.

Program: "The Secret to Writing a Compelling History: You Too Can Be an Author."

Dr. Courtney Welch, Principal Lecturer and Associate Chair for the History Department at the University of North Texas, presented a program outlining how we can use creative writing techniques to humanize our ancestors, thereby making our family history narratives much more compelling to readers.

She announced that member Beth Leggieri is organizing a Writer's Group. Beth elaborated that the Group plans to meet once a month on the Sunday (2:00 – 4:00 p.m.) before the Friday Genealogy Meet-up. A sign-up sheet was provided for those interested (7 people signed up).

Upcoming Program: "Proving Long-Lost Family the Indirect Way" by Patti Gillespie.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. after Terry Brantley moved and Beth Leggieri seconded that we adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Minna Marinko, Secretary
13 Oct 2018



THE ORPHAN TRAINS

By Dick Eastman

From the 1850s through the 1920s, New York City was teeming with tens of thousands of homeless and orphaned children. To survive, these so-called “street urchins” resorted to begging, stealing, or forming gangs to commit violence. Some children worked in factories and slept in doorways or flophouses. The children roamed the streets and slums with little or no hope of a successful future. Their numbers were stunningly large; an estimated 30,000 children were homeless in New York City in the 1850s.

Charles Loring Brace, the founder of The Children’s Aid Society, believed that there was a way to change the futures of these children. By removing youngsters from the poverty and debauchery of the city streets and placing them in morally upright farm families, he thought they would have a chance to escape a lifetime of suffering.

Brace proposed that these children be sent by train to live and work on farms out west. They would be placed in homes for free, but they would serve as an extra pair of hands to help with chores around the farm. They wouldn’t be indentured. In fact, older children placed by The Children’s Aid Society were to be paid for their labors.

The Orphan Train Movement lasted from 1853 to the 1920s, placing more than 120,000 children. Most of these children survived into adulthood, married, and had children of their own. Several million Americans today can find former Orphan Train children in their family trees.

Orphan Trains stopped at more than 45 states across the country, as well as Canada and Mexico. During the early years, Indiana received the largest number of children. There were numerous agencies nationwide that placed children on trains to go to foster homes. In New York, besides Children’s Aid, other agencies that placed children included Children’s Village (then known as the New York Juvenile Asylum), what is now New York Foundling Hospital, and the former Orphan Asylum Society of the City of New York, which is now the Graham-Windham Home for Children. Not all the children were from New York City. Children from Albany and other cities in New York state were transported, as were some from Boston, Massachusetts, where the Boston Children’s Services merged with the New England Home For Little Wanderers, which also is still active today.

Only a few of the Orphan Train children are alive today, and most were too young at the time to remember their

experiences. However, a few elderly Americans can recall their experiences on the Orphan Trains.

Stanley Cornell and his brother are amongst the last generation of Orphan Train riders. When asked about his experience, Mr. Cornell replied, “We’d pull into a train station, stand outside the coaches dressed in our best clothes. People would inspect us like cattle farmers. And if they didn’t choose you, you’d get back on the train and do it all over again at the next stop.” Cornell and his brother were “placed out” twice with their aunts in Pennsylvania and Coffeyville, Kansas. Unfortunately, these placements didn’t last, and they were returned to the Children’s Aid Society. “Then they made up another train. Sent us out West. A hundred-fifty kids on a train to Wellington, Texas,” Cornell recalls. “That’s where Dad happened to be in town that day.”

Each time an Orphan Train was sent out, adoption ads appeared in local papers before the arrival of the children.

J.L. Deger, a 45-year-old farmer, knew he wanted a boy, even though he already had two daughters, ages 10 and 13.

“He’d just bought a Model T. Mr. Deger looked those boys over. We were the last boys holding hands in a blizzard, December 10, 1926,” Cornell remembers. He says that day he and his brother stood in a hotel lobby. “He asked us if we wanted to move out to farm with chickens, pigs, and a room all to your own. He only wanted to take one of us, decided to take both of us.” Life on the farm was hard work.

“I did have to work and I expected it, because they fed me, clothed me, loved me. We had a good home. I’m very grateful. Always have been, always will be.” Cornell eventually got married. He and his wife, Earleen, lived in Pueblo, Colorado. His brother, Victor Cornell, eventually moved to Moscow, Idaho.

Some of the children struggled in their newfound surroundings, while many others went on to lead simple, very normal lives, raising their families and working towards the American dream. Although records weren’t always well kept, some of the children placed in the West went on to great successes. There were two governors, one congressman, one sheriff, two district attorneys, and three county commissioners, as well as numerous bankers, lawyers, physicians, journalists, ministers, teachers, and businessmen.

(Continued on Page 5)

NEWS AND PROGRAMS FROM THE LIBRARY

Denton County Genealogical Society

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

11/08—Proving Long-Lost Family the Indirect Way: Finding the Ancestors of F.N. Raymond presented by Patti Gillespie

Thurs. Emily Fowler Central Library 6:30 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. 11/30, 12/28 Emily Fowler Central Library 9:30 a.m.

(Continued from Page 4)

The Orphan Train Movement and the success of other children’s aid initiatives led to a host of child welfare reforms, including child labor laws, adoption and foster care services, public education, and the provision of health care and nutrition and vocational training.

Many web sites provide information about America’s Orphan Trains:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orphan_Train

<https://www.childrensaidnyc.org/about/orphan-train-movement>

<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=2400>

Hunting your House’s History

Have you ever wondered about the “secret history” of your house? Did you know that you can search public records to find out more about who lived there and events that may have happened? If your house was built before 1980, join us for a class that will show you how to unlock some of these mysteries.

Fri. 11/09 Emily Fowler 10 a.m.

Family History Gift Ideas

Looking for unique ways to share your family history as gifts this holiday season? Come see a wide range of ideas, from DIY projects to more elaborate purchased items.

Thu. 12/06 Emily Fowler 6:30 p.m.

<http://encyclopedia.adoption.com/entry/Orphan-Train-Heritage-Society-of-America-Inc-OTHS/267/1.html>

Even more sites about Orphan Trains, many of them dedicated to Orphan Train experiences in specific states, may be found on Cyndi’s List at: <https://www.cyndislist.com/orphans/orphan-trains/>.



2018-2020 OFFICERS

President—Joe Spears

Vice-President—Erik Kaszynski

Secretary—Minna Marinko

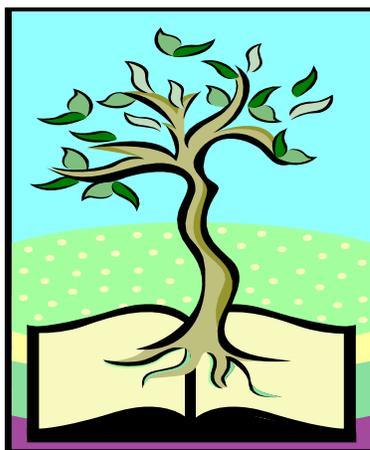
Treasurer—Linda Touraine

Librarian—Laura Douglas

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Membership— Deb Reed

Newsletter Editor—Kathy Strauss



**NEXT MEETING OF THE
DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
JANUARY 10, 2019
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201