

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 10, 2019



1896- Denton County Courthouse-

PROGRAM: “Eureka, Epiphany, and Serendipity”

Members’ Round Table Discussion

This month's meeting will be a round table discussion of member's experiences with serendipity, unexpected results, and eureka moment in their research. One of the best ways to make new discoveries in your own genealogical research is to hear about the successes of others.

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

Announcing the Early Texans DNA Project

The Early Texans DNA database is now live. Those who join the Early Texans DNA project can compare their DNA to other Early Texans descendants and collaboratively work to solve early Texas genealogical mysteries.

- Learn which segments of DNA are shared with other descendants of early settlers of Texas.
- Assist those applying for TxSGS Heritage Certificates. DNA matches support claims of descent from a common ancestor and can provide clues as to where to locate documentary evidence.

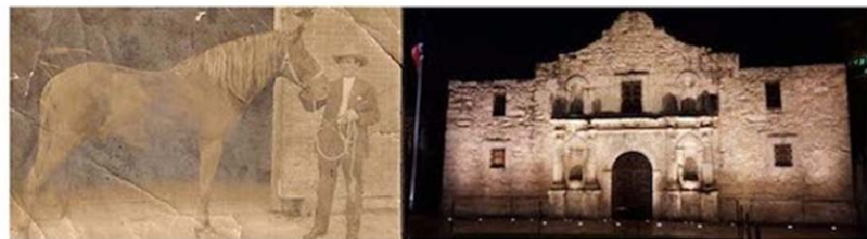
The project helps participants study the DNA of descendants of early settlers to discover information that can contribute to Texas history including:

- Determine which admixtures are found in living Texans today.
- Link those admixture results to early colonies or settlements.

The Early Texans DNA Project is sponsored by the Texas State Genealogical Society. You can learn a lot more about the project at: <http://www.txsgs.org/programs/dna-project/early-texans/>.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was very impressed with Patti Gillespie and what she taught us at our last meeting. When you run into a brick wall, try going around it with indirect proof. Now I'm looking forward to both of her DNA programs in March.

Be sure to complete and email your Membership Data form to [Deb Reed](#). Also, think about how you can help with the library projects [Laura Douglas](#) outlined.

Our new writers group called GenPen is being organized and is scheduled to hold its first meeting on Sunday, January 20, at the Emily Fowler Library. If you have any interest in writing a story about any of your ancestors, be sure to contact [Beth Leggieri](#) who, to use her words, is "driving the bus". She has already identified some excellent resources and is working diligently on this project. Attagirl, Beth. Thanks for making a difference.

Everyone has a story to tell. Start thinking about our

Round Robin on January 10. We are the program. This is your opportunity to tell a five- to seven-minute story about your family or share a genealogy experience with the membership. Bring your laptop if you want to connect it to the video projector. We all love those special, old photographs. If we have inclement weather, be sure to check the [DCGS Web site](#) and your email before you get on the road.

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.

A Happy and Healthy 2019 to you all,
Joe Spears
Email: argyleiris@verizon.net

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Nov. 1, 2018\$ **\$3,049.77**

Deposits:

Dues 2018-2019 \$ 50.00

2018-2019 Paid Members – 47

Total Income: \$ 50.00

Disbursements:

Patti Gillespie, \$ 85.00

[Nov. program]

Linda Touraine \$ 15.41

[Reimburse, charge from
Sec. State Office]

TSGS Society \$ 60.00

[Dues, 2 years]

Library Donations

April 1995 – May 2006 \$2,876.52

June 2006 – June 2012 \$3,310.00

July 2012 – December 2018 \$1,961.34

Total Disbursements \$ 160.41

Balance Dec. 31, 2018 \$2,939.36

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Touraine, Treasurer



NOVEMBER 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 remarked on the wonderful refreshments. In turn, Walta Evans thanks all who brought the goodies.

Membership Chair Deb Reed introduced two visitors: Brent Davidson and Ed Ball. There were 21 members in attendance.

BUSINESS

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Deb Reed reported that she had prepared the member questionnaire form. After approval of the form by the Board, she had emailed the questionnaire to all members. She urged all members to return their completed forms to her as soon as possible.

REPORTS

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

CHRISTMAS MEETING

After a show of hands confirmed interest in a December meeting, all agreed that the format would follow that of the monthly Genealogy Meetup. Holiday refreshments will be provided.

SOCIETY OBJECTIVES

President Spears recited the Society's objectives (as stated in the by-laws):

- Assist the public and the membership in the study of genealogy
- Support the Denton Public Library with emphasis on its genealogical collection
- Locate, preserve, and expand information relating to the history of Denton County and its early citizens

Librarian Laura Douglas outlined a few pending Special Collections projects that fall within the

Society's objectives:

Transcription of Alec Williams' oral histories of the 1980s. The project requires someone to type transcripts directly from the tapes, and then someone to edit the transcripts.

Knowledge of Denton history, although not a requisite, would make transcribing easier.

Clean-out of old records of the Genealogical Society

An item-level inventory of donations of research information about John B. Denton and the family surname

Sale of old Society publications (i.e., the City of Denton's Death Records, 1900-1957)

Potential volunteers must attend a Volunteer Orientation and pass a background check. Interested members should email Laura (Laura.Douglas@cityofdenton.com).

PROGRAM

"Proving Long-Lost Family the Indirect Way: Finding the Ancestors of F. N. Raymond"

Patti Gillespie, B.A., M.Ed., professional genealogist, historian, and owner of Family Lines and Stories (www.familylinesandstories.com), presented how to collect, analyze, and use indirect evidence to connect families and break down brick walls. Using a client's case study, she outlined the steps she used to correctly identify the client's ancestors. She emphasized that using tables and/or spreadsheets was critical to correctly analyzing indirect evidence.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Minna Marinko, Secretary



Civil War Facial Recognition

Photography was a new technology at the time of the U.S. Civil War. An estimated 40 million photos were taken during the Civil war – although only four million are believed to remain today. Many have been treated as heirloom photos by families ever since. Still others are valuable for their historical value. One problem is that many of the people shown in the old photographs have never been identified, until now.

In a marriage of the latest technology and 150-year-old technology, computerized facial recognition techniques are now identifying many of the people in the old photographs.



Computer scientist and history buff Kurt Luther created a free-to-use website, called [Civil War Photo Sleuth](#), that uses facial recognition technology to cross-reference vintage photographs with a database and hopefully assign a name to unknown subjects.

Anyone may upload their own photographs or select from the many photographs that are already available online, such as photos from the [U.S. National Archives and Records Administration's web site](#). The software in the Civil War Photo Sleuth web site then maps as many as 27 “facial landmarks” on each photograph. Once it finishes cross-referencing, the site will serve up a slate of closely similar photographs that already have names attached.

For any one photo, the web site often identifies a number of potential candidates, rather than just one. In that case, humans have to compare the photographs of potential candidates to identify the correct person, if possible.

A lot more information about the [Civil War Photo Sleuth](#) may be found in an article by Annie Palmer in the *Daily Mail* web site at <https://dailym.ai/2S6gUwy> while the Civil War Photo Sleuth web site may be found at: <https://www.civilwarphotosleuth.com>.

The New York Times will Digitize its Photo Archive

This may turn out to be a gold mine for historians and genealogists alike. The New York Times is planning to digitize more than a century's worth of photographs, and it is going to use Google Cloud to do so.

The plan is to digitize **MILLIONS** of images — some dating back to the late nineteenth century — to ensure they can be accessed by generations to come. The digitization process will also prove useful for journalists who will be able to delve into the archives far more easily in future.

Until now, historic news articles and photos have been stored on microfilm and in other physical forms. This is not only difficult to catalog and navigate, but also prone to deterioration over time and through use.

Brian Stevens, Chief Technical Officer of Google Cloud, stated:

“Google Cloud technologies like Cloud Storage, Cloud Pub/Sub, and Cloud Vision API are helping to preserve this priceless history and give journalists a new way to search, access, and analyze millions of historic photos and give them new life. Cloud technology is allowing The Times to protect one of their most unique assets migrating from steel filing cabinets to a cloud-based platform where journalists can bring visual storytelling to a whole new level.”

You can read more in an article by Mark Wycislik-Wilson in the *BetaNews* web site at: <https://betanews.com/2018/11/09/new-york-times-google-cloud/>.



(Source: *Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter*)

NEWS AND PROGRAMS FROM THE LIBRARY

Denton County Genealogical Society

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

1/10 – Eureka, Epiphany, and Serendipity - Round Table discussion

2/14 –Uncovering St. John’s – Emily Lockwood Bowles and Micah Crittenden

3/14 –I’ve Got—Or I’m getting—My DNA Report: Now What Do I Do? (Beginner) - Patti Gillespie

4/11 - How to Save Your Research from Destruction & Ensure Its Future Survival - Lisa Louise Cooke

Thu. Emily Fowler 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. 1/25, 2/22, 3/29, 4/19, Emily Fowler Central Library 9:30 a.m.

What’s So Special about Special Collections?

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

Sat. 2/16 Emily Fowler 3pm

Denton Stained Glass - A brief exploration of the historically significant stained glass in the City of Denton; covers TWU's Little Chapel in the Woods, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Trinity Presbyterian Church of Denton, etc. Presented by Denton artist, Christie A. Wood.

1/12 Emily Fowler 3pm

2018-2020 OFFICERS

President—Joe Spears

Vice-President—Erik Kaszynski

Secretary—Minna Marinko

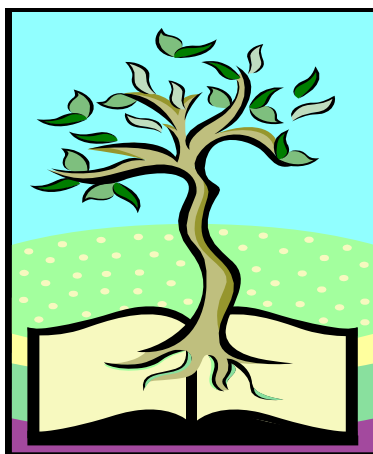
Treasurer—Linda Touraine

Librarian—Laura Douglas

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Membership— Deb Reed

Newsletter Editor—Kathy Strauss



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 1/19 Emily Fowler 3pm

I’ve Got My Ancestry DNA Report: Evaluating My Test Results for Connections

Understand your DNA report at a higher level. Class will discuss DNA Ethnicity Report, DNA Circles and the DNA Story. Calculate find matches, evaluate the degree of relationship, and compare DNA. Geared for intermediate level and for those looking to build a greater knowledge of the power of genetics in genealogy.

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

Save your Memories (Legacy Lab)

Learn more about the new digital conversion equipment in the Legacy Lab that can be used to preserve your family history by converting your photos, home videos, and paper documents to digital formats. This overview will cover the equipment and software in the Legacy Lab and answer general questions about lab use.

Sat. 4/20 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.



**NEXT MEETING OF THE
DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
February 14, 2019
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201