

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 JANUARY 9, 2020



1896- Denton County Courthouse-

PROGRAM: “Eureka, Epiphany, and Serendipity”: Members’ Round Table Discussion and GenPen Presentation

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

The Denton County Genealogical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2020. Refreshments and networking will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, and the meeting and

program will begin at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome. 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 program will also feature a presentation from GenPen, our family history writing group, and a brief business meeting to discuss changes to the Society’s bylaws.

Reclaim the Records Publishes the Mississippi Death Index (1912-1943)

Introducing the first-ever freely-available publication, online or otherwise, of the Mississippi Statewide Death Index!

This record set covers deaths in the state of Mississippi from about November 1912 (although a few counties were slow to join in) through 1943. This record set was originally compiled by the Works Project Administration (WPA), as part of their incredibly important [Historical Records Survey](#) group.

Up until, oh, *right now*, the only place anyone could see or use this index was by visiting [the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in Jackson, Mississippi](#) in person, then tediously cranking through the faded and scratched microfilm rolls, or shuffling around microfiche sheets for some of the years. But

now it’s all scanned and online and free to use from your own home, without restrictions or copyrights, forever!

And we at Reclaim The Records couldn’t have done this without teamwork: a dedicated genealogist who knew about the records *and* about his rights *and* reached out to us for help; two generous genealogy non-profits that helped us digitize and host these new materials; and a pool of awesome supporters and donors that enabled our work on this project. (*This is you!*)

You can read the full announcement, including information on how to access the Mississippi records, on the Reclaim the Records web site at: <https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/records->

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we go into another new year. I am proud of our programs, the attendance and participation of our members, and the open seating arrangement which makes socializing easier.

At our next meeting we will review and vote on proposed Bylaws amendments which were emailed to you. That should be handled quickly, and we can get on to our Round Robin.

Our writers group called GenPen is about to celebrate its first birthday. They will be part of our Round Robin. If you have any interest in writing a story about any of your ancestors, be sure to contact [Beth Leggieri](#). Thanks, Beth, for making a difference.

Start thinking about our Round Robin on January 9. *We are* the program. Everyone has a story to tell. 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. Do you have any DNA discoveries or surprises to share?

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. If we have inclement weather, be sure to check the [DCGS Web site](#) and your email before you get on the road.

A Happy and Healthy 2020 to you all,
Joe Spears
Email: argyleiris@verizon.net



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance November 1, 2019

\$2,645.23

2019-2020 Paid Members – 44

Deposits:

2019-2020 Dues \$140.00

Voided check \$50.00

Total Deposits: \$190.00

Library Donations

April 1995 – May 2006 \$2,876.52

June 2006 – June 2012 \$3,310.00

July 2012 – December 2019 \$2,973.53

Disbursements:

Memorial to LDS Philal. \$50.00

[Previous check voided]

November program fee \$85.00

Books purchased for library \$376.00

Total Disbursements \$511.00

Balance Dec. 31, 2019

\$2,324.23

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Touraine, Treasurer



NOV 2019 MINUTES

President Joe Spears called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He introduced himself and welcomed everyone.

Hospitality Chairman Bob Lane thanked members who supplied refreshments for tonight's meeting, including Steve Booher, Linda Lane, Linda Pizzolato, and Beth Leggieri.

Membership Chairman Deb Reed introduced new member Emily Richardson and visitors Leslie Coleman and Amy Clouch (Wise County Genealogical Society). There were 22 members in attendance.

BUSINESS

Motion was made by Terry Brantley and seconded by Bob Lane to approve the minutes of the October meeting as published in the newsletter. The treasurer's report, also published in the newsletter, was filed for audit. President Spears called attention to the Society's purchase of books for the library.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

President Spears announced that representatives of Family Tree Maker approached the Society about hosting an event during FTM's Spring Tour. Since only four members indicated they were using FTM software and the Society's spring program schedule is full, President Spears suggested the Society take no action. Any interested members can attend the Tour elsewhere.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Genealogy Meetup, November 22 and December 27, 9:30 a.m. at the library.

There will be no December meeting of the GenPen writers' group.

DCGS's next meeting will be held on January 9, 2020. Plans include discussing amendments to the By-laws and a round table discussion of members' genealogy accomplishments.

Keep Denton Beautiful is selling "Respect Your Foots" T-shirts. Anyone interested should go to KDB's web site.

PROGRAM

Eric Kaszynski, program director, earnestly thanked the Society for the memorial donated to the Family History Center in honor of his wife. He then introduced the evening's speaker, Patti Gillespie. Ms. Gillespie, professional genealogist and owner of Family Lines, presented her RootsTech 2019 program entitled, "Census Sense: Clues and Conundrums for Intermediate Researchers."

Chris Strauss made a motion to adjourn. Kathy Butler seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Minna Marinko, Secretary
20 November 2019



Retrieval of Irish Archive Lost in 1922 Fire 'Astounding', Historian Says

Two days into the Civil War, a massive explosion destroyed the Public Records Office attached to Dublin's Four Courts and with it hundreds of years of documented history, resulting in a huge loss for genealogists, historians, and many others who depend upon such records.

The census records for the whole of the 19th century going back to the first in 1821 were incinerated. Chancery records, detailing British rule in Ireland going back to the 14th century and grants of land by the crown, were also destroyed along with thousands of wills and title deeds. The records of various chief secretaries to Ireland and centuries of Church of Ireland parish registers vanished in the fire.

However, there is good news: An attempt to recreate Ireland's archives destroyed in a fire in June 1922 has been successful to a "greater extent than ever previously imagined," the historian behind the project has said.

You can read the full story in an article by Ronan McGreevy in *The Irish Times* web site at: <http://bit.ly/33Vogbw>.

127 Years of Dallas History Uncovered as Oakland Cemetery's Records, Once Buried, Come to Light

By Dick Eastman

If you have ancestors in or near Dallas, Texas, you need to read this story. It seems that Christine Sharbrough, the archivist and historian who manages the downtown library's Dallas History & Archives Division, recently made a major discovery.

"This is how I came to spend a few hours Wednesday thumbing through file drawers stuffed with pink interment cards bearing the names of men and women and children — and pets — buried in the South Dallas cemetery that opened its gates in 1892.

Robert Wilonsky recently wrote in the Dallas News: "A few days ago I got an email from Christine Sharbrough, the archivist and historian who manages the downtown library's Dallas History & Archives Division. It read: 'Just thought I'd drop you a note and let you know that the Oakland Cemetery records are at DPL (and on my floor).' She didn't say how small or how vast the collection, only that 127 years' worth of Dallas history — scattered for decades across warehouses and garages and the cemetery's storage shed — was in her possession.

"Some have just the names of the deceased, a date of birth, when they died and where they are buried on the cemetery grounds. Small death notices are affixed to some cards; some even have photos. And upon some are scribbled details horrific ('killed with machete to head') and heartbreaking (found in Grovehill Cemetery, cause of death unknown)."

You can read a lot more about this previously-unknown source of records at: <http://bit.ly/2ONGwhD>.



CHRISTINE SHARBROUGH, MANAGER OF THE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY'S DALLAS HISTORY & ARCHIVES DIVISION, IS NOW TASKED WITH CLEANING AND ORGANIZING THE OAKLAND CEMETERY ARCHIVES. HERE SHE HOLDS ONE OF THE BURIAL LEDGERS. (TOM FOX / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Works from 1924 are Now in the Public Domain

For years, genealogists learned that anything published prior to 1923 is now considered to be in the public domain. In other words, there are no copyrights on these older works and they may be copied or reproduced freely. However, the date of early copyrights changed last year. Starting on January 1, 2019, anything published in 1923 (or anything published prior to 1924) is now considered to be in the public domain. Now the new year has pushed the date out another year.

Starting on January 1, 2020, anything published in 1924 (or anything published prior to 1925) is now considered to be in the public domain.

It's time to (legally) republish some of those old family history books!

See <https://web.law.duke.edu/cspd/publicdomainday/2020/> for further details.



NEWS AND PROGRAMS FROM THE LIBRARY

Denton County Genealogical Society

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

1/09—"Eureka, Epiphany, and Serendipity" Members

Round Table Discussion & GenPen presentation

2/13—Southern Manuscript Collections presented by Ari Wilkins

3/12—Proving Your Lineage to a Patriot of the War of the Revolution by Jane Sanzone and Donna Spears

4/16—Using Genealogy in Criminal Investigation by Chris Womack

5/15—Business Meeting/ Election of Officers/ Round Robin Members Round Table Discussion

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.

Emily Fowler Central Library 9:30 a.m.

GenPen

Turn your genealogy research into family history narratives with GenPen. Share your writing, give and get feedback from writers of all levels. Get the encouragement you need to get family stories out of your research files and onto the page.

Sun. 01/19, 02/23, 03/22, 04/19

Emily Fowler 2-4 pm

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.

Sat 1/18 Emily Fowler 3 - 5 p.m.

Save your Memories

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. Discover the equipment and software in the Legacy Lab.

Thu. 1/23 Emily Fowler 6:30 p.m.

Beyond Ancestry.com

Learn search techniques to access to free genealogical and historical websites that may contain the answers to your most difficult family history questions.

Sat. 02/08 Emily Fowler 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Researching Land Records

Land records are some of the most underutilized, yet most useful, records available in genealogy and are available for most locations in the US.

Sat. 3/28 Emily Fowler 10 a.m.

Uncovering Denton History

The presentation will provide users with an overview of the Denton County Newspapers on the Portal to Texas History and how one could use it for their own research interests.

Sat. 4/18 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

2018-2020 OFFICERS

President—Joe Spears

Vice-President—Erik Kaszynski

Secretary—Minna Marinko

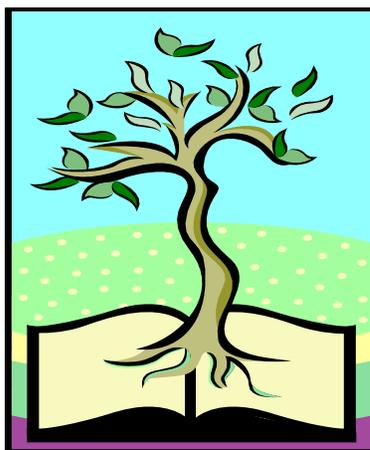
Treasurer—Linda Touraine

Librarian—Laura Douglas

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Membership— Deb Reed

Newsletter Editor—Kathy Strauss



**NEXT MEETING OF THE
DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
February 13, 2020
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201