

# 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

## FEBRUARY MEETING THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2020



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: “Southern Manuscript Collections”

**SPEAKER: Ari Wilkins**

This program offers a multifaceted view of life before and after the Civil War. This lecture will discuss where to find manuscript collections, how they are organized, and the variety of documents that can be found within the collections.

Ari Wilkins, a graduate of Louisiana State University, has been actively researching family history since 1998. Ari worked with the esteemed genealogist, Dr. James Rose, for many years on his final project *Generations: The WPA Ex-Slave Narrative*

*Database.* She is the owner of the genealogical consulting company, Black Genesis. Ms. Wilkins also works as a contributor for Proquest’s African American Heritage database. Ms. Wilkins has spoken nationally at the National Genealogical Society, Federation of Genealogical Societies, Texas State Genealogical Society, Ohio Genealogical Society, Samford Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research, Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, American Library Association, RootsTech, and a multitude of local societies. Ari has been a Library Associate at Dallas Public Library since 2007. She teaches a series of basic research classes using popular genealogical websites. She specializes in African American research.

### GENEALOGY DOCUMENTARY “RAILROAD TIES”

In *Railroad Ties*, six descendants of slaves and abolitionists come together to explore their shared lineage (spoiler: four of them turned out to be related to one another.)

The video is sponsored by Ancestry.com and features renowned historian, Henry Louis Gates Jr. The film interweaves powerful personal moments with contextual historical

anecdotes.

You can watch the documentary on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/3MdupcscFi0>



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January's Round Robin was both gratifying and enjoyable. Thank you to everyone for participating and for sharing great stories. Congratulations to our GenPen group on their first anniversary. Beth is correct – taking those first steps on a project is the most difficult part.

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.

At our next meeting we will elect three members to the Nominating Committee who will report a slate of officers at our April meeting. Those three will be joined by two members of the Executive Board. Please let me know if you would serve on that committee, be a 2020-2022 officer, or chair a standing committee.

Joe Spears  
 Email: [argyleiris@verizon.net](mailto:argyleiris@verizon.net)

Bring program ideas with you to our February 13 meeting. It is time to schedule at least our September, October, and November speakers. We meet eight times a year with two of those usually being Round Robins. I am counting on your input to keep DCGS interesting and meaningful.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

**Balance January 1, 2020**                      **\$2,324.23**

**Deposits:**                                      **\$0.00**

**Disbursements:**                              **\$0.00**

**Balance January 31, 2020**                      **\$2,324.23**

Library Donations	
April 1995 – May 2006	\$2,876.52
June 2006 – June 2012	\$3,310.00
July 2012 – December 2019	\$2,973.53

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Linda Touraine, Treasurer

2019-2020 Paid Members – 44



## JANUARY 2020 MINUTES

President Joe Spears called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He introduced himself and welcomed everyone. Hospitality Chairman Bob Lane thanked members who supplied tonight's refreshments: Laura Douglas, Deb Reed, Charles and Sandra Robertson, Dayonne Work, Walta Evans, Steve Booher, and Minna Marinko.

Membership Chairman Deb Reed introduced visitor Leslie Coleman. There were 29 members in attendance.

### BUSINESS

The motion to approve the November minutes as published in the newsletter was made by Eric Kaszynski and seconded by Emily Coffman with one correction ("Roots"). The treasurer's report, also published in the newsletter, was filed for audit. President Spears called attention to the Society's second purchase of books for the library.

### OLD BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

President Spears presented the Board's proposed changes to the Bylaws:

Article III. Membership. Delete "Each member shall be given a copy of the Society's By-Laws." (By-Laws are now published on the Society's web site.)

Article IV (2). Change "The Committee shall elect...." to "The Committee shall select...."

Article V (2). Correct "holiday" to "holidays"

Article VI (1). Delete "...except the Nominating Committee...."

Article VI (3). Change publication of Treasurer's Reports from twice annually to "in each newsletter."

Article VI (4) Delete "...at the end of his/her term of office."

Article VI (6) Delete entire section. (The Society no longer has a Parliamentarian.)

Article VIII (1) Change committees to Membership, Social, Newsletter, and Publicity

Article IX. Delete "...submitted...."

New section: "Article X. Rules of Order. The proceedings of the Society shall be governed by *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* except where there is a conflict with these Bylaws. Meetings will be conducted in an informal but orderly manner."

Article XI. Change "...cannot conflict with these

Bylaws" to "...shall become a part of this Article." Linda Lane made a motion to accept the changes. Motion was seconded by Eileen Windsor. The revised Bylaws will be posted on the Society's web site.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

A DNA webinar will be presented as part of the "Winter with DNA Conference" on Saturday, Jan 25. Information has been sent to members via email. Early bird registration (by Jan 17) is \$19.99 (afterward \$24.99). The webinar will be available to registrants for 30 days after the live broadcast.

The GenPen Writers Group will meet on Jan 19 and Feb 23, 2-4pm.

The Society will next meet on February 13.

Librarian Laura Douglas announced the Denton Library has been awarded a \$24,000 grant to begin digitizing old issues of the *Denton Record-Chronicle*. She demonstrated how the digitized issues can be accessed via the "Portal to Texas History."

### PROGRAM

The Society's semi-annual Members Round Robin began with a presentation by the GenPen Writers' Group. Beth Leggieri, Nancy Casey, and Minna Marinko outlined the accomplishments of the group's first year. Group members Emily Richardson and Kathi Coatney added their testimonials.

Several Society members outlined their recent research successes: Shelly Tucker told the story of Mennonite ancestor Alexander "Long Beard" Wisner and Susannah Parker. Eileen Windsor recounted how reaching out on Ancestry with only a partial name helped her break through a brick wall. Steve Booher discovered a third great-grandfather on a Texas historical marker. Walta Evans told how she broke through a brick wall by simply revisiting her existing files. Nancy Casey qualified for the First Families of Pennsylvania. John Windsor recounted how he found a windfall of information on an ancestor merely by inquiring at a local university. Carol Brantley showed her grandmother's datebook, which contained much more family info than just dates.

John Windsor made a motion to adjourn. Dayonne Work seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Minna Marinko, Secretary



## 24-HOUR GENEALOGY WEBINAR MARATHON, an UNPRECEDENTED EVENT HOSTED by MyHeritage



### THE 24-HOUR GENEALOGY WEBINAR MARATHON

Make History with Us



[familytreewebinars.com/24](https://familytreewebinars.com/24)

Announcing a 24-Hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon, an unprecedented event hosted by MyHeritage and featured on Legacy Family Tree Webinars.

This webinar, open to all and completely free of charge, allows MyHeritage users in every time zone on Earth to learn at their own pace and from the comfort of their

homes.

The marathon will begin on Thursday, March 12 at 5 P.M. Eastern U.S. time (Friday, March 13 at 8 A.M. Sydney time) and end on Friday, March 13, at 5 P.M. eastern U.S. time (Saturday, March 14 Sydney time).

Each lecture will be 45 minutes long, including 10 minutes for questions at the end.

Space is limited, so make sure to register for the webinar now at <https://www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com/24>.

Can't join us in real-time? We've got you covered: videos of the lectures will be uploaded to

[FamilyTreeWebinars.com](https://FamilyTreeWebinars.com) after the event and will be available to all absolutely free for a week. Beyond that, members of FamilyTreeWebinars.com will be able to watch them at any time.

You can read more in the MyHeritage Blog at: <https://blog.myheritage.com/2020/01/introducing-the-24-hour-genealogy-webinar-marathon/>.

## RootsWeb MAILING LISTS TO BE DISCONTINUED

Beginning March 2nd, 2020 the Mailing Lists functionality on RootsWeb will be discontinued. Users will no longer be able to send outgoing emails or accept incoming emails. Additionally, administration tools will no longer be available to list administrators and mailing lists will be put into an archival state.

Administrators may save the emails in their list prior to March 2nd. After that, mailing list archives will remain

available and searchable on RootsWeb.

As an alternative to RootsWeb Mailing Lists, Ancestry message boards are a great option to network with others in the genealogy community. Message boards are available for free with an Ancestry registered account.



## FGS & the NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LAUNCHES U.S.-MEXICAN WAR SOLDIERS & SAILORS DATABASE

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) and the National Park Service's Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park (NPS) announce the launch of the U.S.-Mexican War Soldier & Sailor database.

This online, searchable database contains information for over 85,000 U.S. and Mexican veterans who served in this war. Many records include personal details, such as hair color and occupation.

The database allows descendants of these soldiers and sailors to connect to their personal history and helps Palo Alto commemorate and tell the stories of those who served. This

invaluable research tool benefits genealogists, historians, as well as people who may have never known they are related to a U.S.-Mexican War veteran.

This project started in 2007. Progress was extremely slow until 2015, when FGS joined forces with the NPS. FGS offered their expertise and numerous volunteers.

Patricia Rand, the FGS contact, recruited and trained volunteers who spent over 17,000 hours doing the tedious task of inputting data. Their dedication makes it possible for future generations to learn about those who served in the U.S.-Mexican War.

## NEWS AND PROGRAMS FROM THE LIBRARY

### Denton County Genealogical Society

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

**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.**

### 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. 02/23, 03/22, 04/19**

**Emily Fowler 2-4 pm**

### 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.**



## RootsTech 2020 ANNOUNCES FREE LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE

If you are unable to attend RootsTech in person, you can still attend “virtually.” The following is the announcement from the RootsTech organizers:

RootsTech 2020 announced its free online streaming schedule. Starting Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. MDT, a select number of classes and events, including the daily [keynote speakers](#), will be broadcast live at [RootsTech.org](#). [View the free streaming schedule for each day.](#)

Join or follow RootsTech social media conversations using #NotAtRootsTech. Sessions will be available to view on-demand after the livestream ends.

Want even more prime content from RootsTech? Purchase or add on the [Virtual Pass](#) and get access to 30 recorded classes from the event. These add-on classes will not be livestreamed but will be recorded and published 15 to 20 days following the end of the conference and will be available only to virtual-pass holders.

### 2018-2020 OFFICERS

**President**—Joe Spears

**Vice-President**—Erik Kaszynski

**Secretary**—Minna Marinko

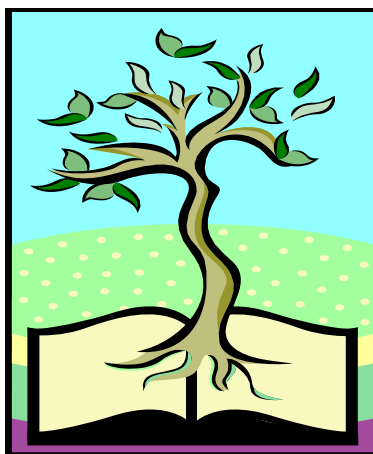
**Treasurer**—Linda Touraine

**Librarian**—Laura Douglas

**Webmaster**—Chris Strauss

**Membership**— Deb Reed

**Newsletter Editor**—Kathy Strauss



**NEXT MEETING OF THE  
DENTON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY WILL BE ON  
March 12, 2020  
Emily Fowler Central  
Library  
502 Oakland St.  
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street  
Denton, TX 76201