PROGRAM: “Proving Your Lineage”

SPEAKERS: Donna Spears and Jane Sanzone

This program covers many of the activities and tasks required to determine and to prove lineal bloodline descent from a patriot of the Revolutionary War. It shows a logical approach to connecting one generation to the next with official documents or acceptable substitutes. An actual lineage is presented including the use of vital records, tombstone photos, newspaper obituaries, and the Genealogical Research System (GRS) available to the public at dar.org.

Donna Spears got serious about genealogy in 2009 after she retired from her 20-year career as a technical writer. In 2013 Donna and her husband, Joe, visited a small, abandoned family graveyard in South Dallas where they found the 1866 gravestone of Thomas M. Smith – Donna's great, great, great grandfather. The journey that followed included their search of old Dallas County deeds, an uncooperative surrounding land owner, the Texas Historical Commission, an attorney, a lawsuit, a retracement surveyor, ground penetrating radar, and more as they fought to keep the surrounding land owner from building a parking lot on the ancestors’ cemetery. When the Court asked Donna to prove she was a descendant of the family interred in the cemetery, she did just that. The matriarch of the pioneer family who came to Dallas in 1851 was Polly Medearis Smith, the youngest child of Major John Medearis, who served in the US Army for seven years and fought in the War of the Revolution with his third cousin, George Washington. After the lawsuit was won and the historic cemetery was thoroughly recorded in the Dallas County records, Donna had the lineage data needed to join the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution as a descendant of John Medearis. There are numerous DAR members descended from his two sons and older daughter but none from the younger daughter, Polly, until Donna proved her. Donna, a graduate of Denton High School and TWU, serves as Recording Secretary and Chair of the Lineage Research Committee of the Benjamin Lyon chapter NSDAR.

Like the majority of her ancestors, Jane Sanzone is a native New Englander with deep roots in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. She moved to Denton in 1987 to pursue a graduate degree in art history and to get away from the cold New England winters! Jane’s interest in family history started at an early age due the knowledge that her grandmother had immigrated to the U.S. from Ireland in the 1920s. On her first trip to Ireland in 1998, she visited her grandmother’s townland in County Kerry and spent time searching through local history resources in Tralee. Jane became serious about genealogy in 2011 when she decided to complete a certificate program in genealogical research through Boston University. In 2014 she joined the New England Historic Genealogy Society on a research tour to Dublin, Ireland, to continue research into her Irish ancestors. Upon returning home, she decided to further explore her New England ancestry and discovered a goldmine of colonial and revolutionary war era ancestors. Jane joined the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in 2015. Since joining DAR, Jane has completed the Genealogy Education Program courses I-III as well as the course DNA and the DAR. She has served as the Benjamin Lyon Chapter’s Registrar since 2017.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The nominating committee will meet soon to determine a slate of 2020-2022 officers to be announced at our April meeting. Several incumbent officers are willing to serve another term; however, several chairs of standing committees want to retire. Thanks to Deb Reed who has served as membership chair and is retiring from that position. Kathy and Chris Strauss have served DCGS for nearly ten years as newsletter editor and web master. They have done an outstanding job and certainly earned some time off. If you have what it takes to manage a web site using WordPress or the writing skills to create and publish the newsletter or want to lead our membership committee, contact me immediately.

Our program committee needs to start work on next year’s programs. The officers and I are always interested in your ideas and suggestions. It takes all of us to keep our society meaningful and relevant. So speak up and let us know what matters to you.

Plan to attend the Family History Discovery Day on Saturday morning, March 28, at the Family History Center, 3000 Old North Road. It is free, and you can register in person or online at http://familyhistory.dentonstake.com.

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. Be sure to wear your lanyards and name tags.

A Happy St. Patrick’s Day to you all,
Joe Spears
Email: argyleiris@verizon.net

TREASURER’S REPORT

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<tr>
<th>Balance February 1, 2020</th>
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<td>Library Donations</td>
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<td>June 2006 – June 2012</td>
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<td>Disbursements:</td>
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<td>Feb. Program</td>
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<td>Mailing fee for book</td>
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<td>$2,204.23</td>
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2019-2020 Paid Members – 44
FEBRUARY 2020 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 tonight’s refreshments: Arthur Medrano, John Windsor and Eileen O’Neill, Shelly Tucker, Stephen Booker, Walta Evans, Eric Kaszynski, and Minna Marinko. There were 28 members in attendance.

BUSINESS
The motion to approve the January minutes as published in the newsletter was made by Walta Evans and seconded by Eileen O’Neill. The treasurer’s report, also published in the newsletter, was filed for audit.

OLD BUSINESS
Daniel K. Greer, Director, Administrative Services, of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints sent a thank-you letter to the Society, acknowledging receipt of the $50.00 donation sent in memory of Sharon Kaszynski.

NEW BUSINESS
President Spears announced the formation of a Nominating Committee to seek officers for the 2021-22 term. Three non-Board members volunteered to serve: Walta Evans, Beth Leggieri, and Emily Coffman Richardson. Motion to accept the volunteers was made by Donna Spears and seconded by Bob Lane. Motion unanimously passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
GenPen Writers Group will meet on Sunday, February 23, 2-4pm, in the Emily Fowler Library conference room.

Family History Discovery Day will be held at the Denton Stake Saturday, March 28, 9am – 12:30 p.m. The Society will have a table and needs volunteers to help pass out flyers and promote DCGS.

The next Society’s meeting will be held Thursday, March 12.

The Robson Ranch Genealogy Group will hold a day-long seminar on genealogy on Saturday, February 22. Sandra Crowley will conduct three sessions. Cost $20 (includes lunch). Interested persons should contact Emily Richardson as soon as possible.

PROGRAM
Beth Leggieri introduced Ari Wilkins, nationally known speaker and owner of Black Genesis, a genealogical consulting company. Ms. Wilkins presented “Southern Manuscript Collections,” an overview of how and where to research this vast resource of information.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Minna Marinko, Secretary
15 February 2020

GenPen

Timothy De La Vega of H.V. Chapman in Abilene will visit with GenPen on Sunday, April 19, from 2-4 pm in the Emily Fowler Conference Room.

H.V. Chapman and Sons is an old-world bookbinder that has been locally owned and operated in Abilene, Texas since 1947. They specialize in handcrafted book covers created in-house. The firm binds and restores all types of books and assists self-publishing authors in fulfilling their dreams of seeing their own work in print. “Whether fictional or genealogical, we’ll help you tell and preserve your story.”
Find your family at the  
Denton Family History Discovery Day  
March 28, 2020 – 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
3000 Old North Rd, Denton, Texas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Chapel</th>
<th>YM/YW Room</th>
<th>Primary Society</th>
<th>Relief Society</th>
<th>High Council</th>
<th>Old Library</th>
<th>Primary Room</th>
<th>Cultural Hall</th>
<th>Family History Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30—9:00</td>
<td>TWO FOYERS: Check in, schedule and location of classes offered at the welcome desk</td>
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<td>8:45—9:30</td>
<td>NOTICE: Unless WIFI is needed for your class—please turn off WIFI settings on ALL technology</td>
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<td>9:30—10:30</td>
<td>Story Telling</td>
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<td>10:40—11:30</td>
<td>Brick Wall Busting Strategies: Hammering at the Wall</td>
<td>Take Ancestor Names to the Temple</td>
<td>Source Citations</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Discovering Your Missing Family Link</td>
<td>RootsTech</td>
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<td>11:40—12:30</td>
<td>Incorporating Multiple Sites in Our Research</td>
<td>Ancestral Quest</td>
<td>DNA Tests</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Major Migrations to America</td>
<td>RootsTech</td>
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<td>12:30</td>
<td>FAMILY DISCOVERY DAY CONCLUDES</td>
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**Time**
- **9:30—10:30**: Story Telling
- **10:40—11:30**: Brick Wall Busting Strategies: Hammering at the Wall
- **11:40—12:30**: Incorporating Multiple Sites in Our Research
- **12:30**: FAMILY DISCOVERY DAY CONCLUDES
Denton County Genealogical Society
Meet fellow genealogists, share tips, & learn new information.
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. 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.