

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

MARCH MEETING THURSDAY MARCH 12, 2020

PROGRAM: "Proving Your Lineage"

SPEAKERS: Donna Spears and Jane Sanzone



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

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.

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.

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Program: "Proving Your Lineage"	
Speakers: Donna Spears and Jane Sanzone	1
President's Message	
Treasurer's Report	2
February 2020 Minutes	
GenPen	3
Family Discovery Day	4
News and Programs from the Library	5

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

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

Deposits:

Return of check #2016 26.00

Disbursements:

Feb. Program \$85.00

Mailing fee for book \$6.00

Postage \$55.00

Total disbursements: \$146.00

Balance February 29, 2020 **\$2,204.23**

2019-2020 Paid Members – 44

Library Donations

April 1995 – May 2006 \$2,876.52

June 2006 – June 2012 \$3,310.00

July 2012 – February 2020 \$2,973.53

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Touraine, Treasurer



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**

8:30—9:00	TWO FOYERS: Check in, schedule and location of classes offered at the welcome desk								
WIFI Etiquette	NOTICE: Unless WIFI is needed for your class—please turn off WIFI settings on ALL technology								
8:45—9:30	Story Telling								
Time	Chapel	YM/YW Room 103-105	Primary	Relief Society	High Council	Old Library	Primary Room	Cultural Hall	Family History Center
9:30—10:30	Family Search for Beginners Linda Barnett	Family Stories Youth to Teach	Ancestry.com Stacie Briggs	Daughters of the American Revolution Proving Your Lineage Jane Sanzone and Donna Spears	Family Memories Walta Evans	Creating Family Activities About Family History TBD	RootsTech TBD	Displays: Daughters of the American Revolution, Denton Public Library, Denton County Genealogical Society,	Open for “One on One” Instruction or Training
10:40—11:30	Brick Wall Busting Strategies: Hammering at the Wall Patti Gillespie	Take Ancestor Names to the Temple Youth to Teach	Source Citations Stacie Briggs	TBD Laura Douglas	Family Search for Intermediate Users Walta Evans	Discovering Your Missing Family Link Darlene Denton	RootsTech TBD	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints,	
11:40—12:30	Incorporating Multiple Sites in Our Research Patti Gillespie	Ancestral Quest John Pfozter	DNA Tests Stacie Briggs	TBD Laura Douglas	Major Migrations to America Walta Evans	Tips and Tricks for Family Search David Nottingham	RootsTech TBD	Denton County Office of History and Culture,	
12:30	FAMILY DISCOVERY DAY CONCLUDES								

NEWS AND PROGRAMS FROM THE LIBRARY

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.

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.

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

2018-2020 OFFICERS

President—Joe Spears

Vice-President—Erik Kaszynski

Secretary—Minna Marinko

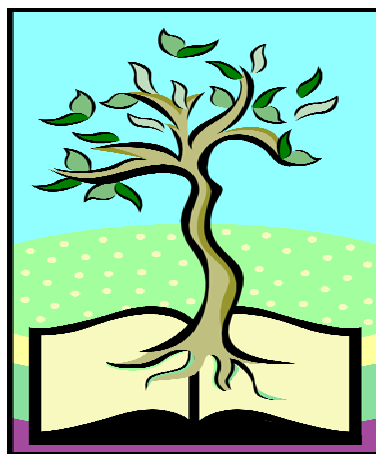
Treasurer—Linda Touraine

Librarian—Laura Douglas

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Membership—Deb Reed

Newsletter Editor—Kathy Strauss



**NEXT MEETING OF THE
DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
April 9, 2020
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201