

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

SEPTEMBER MEETING



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, Everyone,

It is time to kick off our 2020-2021 year. Even though COVID-19 has presented roadblocks (like a brick wall in your research) at least there are alternatives. We will be meeting virtually until we can return to meeting in person.

September's program is a Round Robin via Zoom. That is the Round Robin we didn't hold in May. Get your thoughts together and join us on Zoom. Watch your email for the Zoom link.

October's program is a webinar featuring Tom MacEntee presenting *After You're Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research*.

I appreciate your participation in our

recent survey. Now I would like to hear suggestions for next year's programs. Please email our program VP, Stacie Briggs, at staciebriggs@ymail.com (yes that is a y like in Yahoo).

Maybe in January we can have our Round Robin at Rudy's BBQ.

Stay well and stay safe. I look forward to seeing you.

Joe Spears
Email: argyleiris@verizon.net



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DCGS DUES



Dues for the Denton County Genealogical Society need to be paid by October 2020.

Dues are: \$20.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for couples.

Please send your checks to our Treasurer, Linda Touraine.



SPECIAL REPORT IN LIEU OF MINUTES APRIL – JUNE 2020

President Trump declared the coronavirus pandemic a national emergency on March 13, 2020. Subsequently, the Denton County Library system closed its branches, canceling all upcoming group events for the remainder of 2020.

MEETINGS

On March 23, Society President Joe Spears met with the Board via email. Unanimously, the Board members voted to cancel the April meeting.

On April 22, President Spears and the Board met via email to discuss future meeting plans. The Board voted to cancel the May meeting and began the search for a new meeting location.

After discussion among the Board members, President Spears announced on May 8 that he had reserved the banquet room at Rudy's Country Store and BBQ in Denton for the Thursday, September 10 meeting, from 6:00 pm to closing. The room seats 60 people. Each attendee will need to purchase food by going through the serving line. The reservation is conditioned upon the restaurant being able to seat people in the banquet room which is not allowed at present due to Covid-19. He notified Kathy Strauss that he would address the location change in the next President's article for the newsletter.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee prepared the following slate of officers for 2020-2021:

- President – Joe Spears
- Vice President – Stacie Briggs
- Secretary – Beth Leggieri
- Treasurer – Linda Touraine
- Librarian – Laura Douglas

On April 29, pursuant to the Bylaws, Article IV, Section 2, President Spears notified members via email of the proposed slate of officers and called for nominations from the floor no later than Friday, May 8.

On Sunday, May 10, President Spears emailed members that no additional nominations had been received and asked members to vote Yes or No to the proposed slate before midnight Wednesday, May 13.

On Thursday, May 14, President Spears emailed members that the slate of officers had been elected by 39 positive votes and 0 negative votes.

Respectfully submitted,
Minna Marinko, Secretary
26 May 2020



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance April 1, 2020 **\$2,232.23**

Deposits:

May 27	2020-2021 Dues	\$175.00
June 26	2020-2021 Dues	\$80.00
July 17	2020-2021 Dues	\$20.00
Aug 20	2020-2021 Dues	\$20.00

Total Deposits: \$295.00

Disbursements:

June 10	FGS dues	\$45.00
June 14	TSGS dues, 2 yrs.	\$60.00

Total disbursements: \$105.00

Balance August 31, 2020 **\$2,422.23**

2020-2021 Paid Members – 17

Library Donations

April 1995 – May 2006	\$2,876.52
June 2006 – June 2012	\$3,310.00
July 2012 – August 2020	\$2,925.53

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Touraine, Treasurer



DNA SLEUTHING UNCOVERS GRANDFATHER

By Nancy Gilbride Casey

Note: Names of DNA matches and their relatives have been changed to protect their privacy.

The close new DNA matches were a mystery, with unrecognizable surnames. I'd been researching my husband Jim's family tree long enough to know that these were not names I'd seen before – either in his direct line or in collateral families.

But there they were: match Steve shared a whopping 378 cM with Jim; match Bob shared 366.7 cM. Could they have something to do with Jim's mysterious maternal grandfather—a man we'd known as Henry Jones?

The birth timeline for my mother-in-law—call her Alice—had always been problematic. Her parents divorced in 1939 before she was conceived. Her presumed father Henry had remarried by the time Alice was born in March 1940. It was not impossible that Alice's conception could have occurred in Spring 1939—perhaps in a last-ditch effort to save a foundering marriage. Turning to DNA seemed the only way to sort out the puzzle.

Henry's tree was well built out (even down to documenting the 16 marriages between his various sisters and mother!). But much as I wanted to, I could not connect any of Jim's DNA matches with Henry Jones' family. Something was clearly amiss.

Several DNA tools came in handy at this point: the AutoClusters tool on the DNA Painter website helped sort out Jim's Ancestry matches, as did the AutoCluster tool at MyHeritage, where he also had his DNA. The results revealed a genetic network of matches shared by Jim and his new matches Bob and Steve.

Next up: Scouring obits, FindaGrave, family trees on Ancestry and FamilySearch's shared family tree, and diagraming Jim's matches and their families on Lucidchart. A new family network emerged, as he was connected to both the paternal and maternal lines of a family we'll call the Smiths.

The Smith family had three sons – John, born in 1905, Howard born in 1909, and Paul, born in 1916. Were any of them in the right place at the right time to be

Alice's father?

Alice's mother Jane was known to have been living in Hobbs, New Mexico at the time Henry filed for divorce in Nov. 1938, and so Hobbs and environs became the target locality. Newspapers research revealed that the eldest of the Smith brothers, John, was an oil field worker in Hobbs in 1930; he later operated various retail establishments there – a hat shop, cleaners, and a tailoring shop – and was listed in city directories and in newspaper ads between 1935-1940. Importantly, he was in Hobbs in Spring 1939, when Alice was conceived, and when Jane was known to have lived there.

While this looked promising, an analysis of the other Smith brothers was needed to eliminate them from consideration as Alice's father.

Jim's match Steve was the descendant of middle brother Howard Smith, but the amount of DNA Jim and Steve shared (378cM) did not further support a relationship of grandfather/grandson between Howard and Jim. Consequently, Howard could not be Alice's father.

The youngest brother Paul Smith was confirmed as living nearly 200 miles away from Hobbs during much of the 1930s. Census records place him in Graham, Texas in both 1935 and 1940, where he lived and worked with his mother. This effectively eliminated him as a potential father.

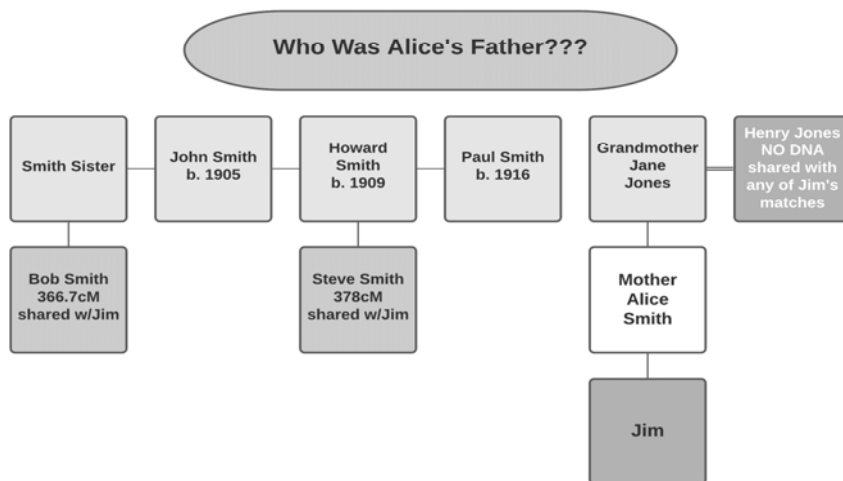
Though John Smith did not have any other descendants who might be tested to confirm the relationship, the DNA evidence available from the many matches involved clearly supports the theory that John was Alice's father.

These newly identified relationships joined a familial network into which many of Jim's DNA matches neatly fit. Since concluding this research project, several more DNA matches between Jim, the Smith family and their ancestors have been identified—now totaling 17—which further strengthening the probability that John Smith was Alice's true father and my husband's true maternal grandfather.

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RootsTech CONNECT: A FREE ONLINE CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

This will be a modified version of the popular RootsTech conferences of the past few years. Now called RootsTech Connect, the **ONLINE** conference will be held on 25-27 February 2021.

For the first time ever, the world’s largest family celebration event will be entirely virtual and completely free. Get ready to celebrate shared connections with people from around the world. Connect with friends, your family, your past, and your heritage and homelands—all from the comfort of your home and in your browser.

To register and read more about it go to: <https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>.



ANNOUNCING the 1950 CENSUS PROJECT FOR the MORSE ONE-STEP SITE

Joel Weintraub has announced a major new addition that for most cities over 5,000 in population. he created for *Stephen Morse's One-Step Webpages* site: the **1950 Census Project** includes 230,000 plus 1950 Enumeration Districts' definitions transcribed and searchable, an additional 79,000 small urban/rural names added to the definitions, and over 2,400 city street indexes

The work was performed by was done with Steve Morse, Joel Weintraub, and under 80 volunteers. All of this is online at <https://stevemorse.org/> right now.

LAST US CITIZEN RECEIVING a CIVIL WAR PENSION DIES in NORTH CAROLINA

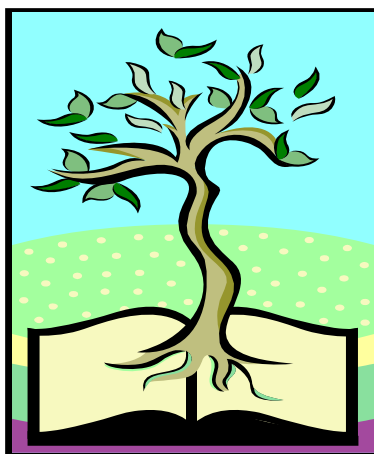
Last US citizen receiving a Civil War pension dies on May 31, 2020, in North Carolina – nearly 170 years after her father defected from the Confederate Army on the way to Gettysburg to fight for the Union to abolish slavery. You can read the full story at: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8382349/Last-citizen-receiving-Civil-War-pension-dies-North-Carolina.html>.

- o Mose Triplett fought for both the Confederate and Union Armies during the Civil War of 1861- 1865
- o In 1930, at the age of 83, his much-younger wife gave birth to daughter Irene
- o Irene qualified for a Civil War pension as the daughter of a veteran; and began receiving the government money in the mid-1950s



2020-2022 OFFICERS

- President—Joe Spears**
- Vice-President—Stacie Briggs**
- Secretary—Beth Leggieri**
- 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 OCT 8, 2020 Online Webinar

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201