

# 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

## JANUARY ZOOM 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](http://www.genealogydentontexas.org)

**Program: “Archaeology at the Tom Cook Blacksmith Shop (c. 1870s-1890s), Bolivar”**

(Cox-McClain Environmental Consulting, Inc.) will present on the historical and archaeological research related to Tom Cook.

**Speakers: Maria Franklin and Doug Boyd**

Join us for the monthly Denton County Genealogy Society meeting Thursday, January 14, 2021. We will connect via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. for a social time to chat with friends and see everyone’s smiling faces. (Watch your email for your invitation)

Cook and his wife, Lethia Perry both were born enslaved in South Carolina and like many, the Cooks migrated to Texas with their slaveowners. After emancipation, Cook set up a blacksmith shop while Lethia kept house and raised their children in Bolivar Texas. The site of Cook’s blacksmith shop is currently under excavation. The project is sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation

After a short business meeting, Maria Franklin (UT-Austin) and Doug Boyd

## Last Known Surviving Widow of a Civil War Veteran Dies at the Age of 101

Helen Viola Jackson, the last known widow of a Civil War soldier, has died. She was 101.

Jackson's death was confirmed in a statement by the Missouri Cherry Blossom Festival, which revealed that she died on Dec. 16 at Webco Manor Nursing Home in Marshfield, Missouri, where she had been living for many years.

Though she kept details of her life mostly private, Jackson recently disclosed to her minister while working out the details of her funeral that she had married James Bolin, a 93-year-old Civil War veteran, when she was 17 years old, the statement read.

At the time, Jackson had been providing

daily care for Bolin, a widower who served as a private in the 14th Missouri Cavalry through the Civil War.

James Bolin died on June 18, 1939. Helen Viola Jackson never Jackson never claimed his pension and she also never remarried.

*Helen Viola Jackson in an undated photo although obviously taken many years ago.*



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## PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

Hello, Everyone,

Let's all welcome 2021 and the beginning of the end of the pandemic and the nightmare that was 2020.

Unlike our ancestors living in 1918 and suffering the Spanish flu pandemic, we have much faster communication providing reassuring knowledge that solutions are on the way. Vaccines are being quickly distributed and administered in several locations.

Here is a link to the COVID-19 Vaccination in Texas Dashboard which provides daily updated info.

[https://tabexternal.dshs.texas.gov/t/THD/views/COVID-19VaccineinTexasDashboard/Summary?%3Aorigin=card\\_share\\_link&%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y](https://tabexternal.dshs.texas.gov/t/THD/views/COVID-19VaccineinTexasDashboard/Summary?%3Aorigin=card_share_link&%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y)

There are tabs at the top. When viewing the Dashboard on your device, click the Vaccine Distribution tab. Next click Denton County on the Texas map to display data about Denton County. You should see the total number of doses received and the manufacturer's name in the lower left. Next click the Vaccine Doses Administered tab. Next click Denton County on the Texas map to display data about Denton County. You should see

the total number of doses administered. Slowly scroll your mouse over each week shown in the lower left to see the date range and the number of doses administered in a particular week.

Watch your email for the January 14 Zoom Join Link. We will start our meeting at 6:30 p.m. for social time followed at 7 p.m. by a brief business meeting and program.

I want to extend a special Thank You to Laura Douglas for arranging several 2021 programs. Laura has been communicating with Maria Franklin, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin, who will present the January program on Archaeology at the Tom Cook Blacksmith Shop (c. 1870s-1890s), Bolivar, Texas.

Stay well and stay safe. I look forward to seeing you on Zoom and in person before too long.

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



## TREASURER'S REPORT

**Balance Nov. 1, 2020** **\$2,822.23**

### Deposits:

11/18 2020-2021 Dues \$130.00

Total Deposits: \$130.00

### Disbursements:

11/10 November program \$50.00

11/30 October Program \$100.00

Total disbursements: \$150.00

**Balance December 31, 2020** **\$2,802.23**

2020-2021 Paid Members – 44

### Library Donations

April 1995 – May 2006 \$2,876.52

June 2006 – June 2012 \$3,310.00

July 2012 – December 2020 \$2,925.53

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Touraine, Treasurer**



## NOVEMBER 2020 MINUTES

President Joe Spears called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:01pm. He introduced himself and welcomed everyone. Twenty-eight were in attendance, including three guests.

### Business

The motion to approve the October minutes as published in the newsletter was made by Sandra Robertson and seconded by Donna Spears. The treasurer's report was filed for audit; six members from last year have not paid and will be removed from membership at the end of the year if dues are not paid.

### Old Business

Feedback from the October recorded seminar has been good.

### New Business

No new business.

### Announcements

Laura Douglass informed the membership of the archaeological excavations underway in the Bolivar/Sanger area. Location is near the intersection 455 and 2450. The January program will address the Tom Cook Blacksmith Shop near Bolivar, Texas.

### Program

Dr. Emily Richardson, DCGS member, presented **Same Name more than Once in the Same Location? How to Decipher Who is Yours.**

Eileen Windsor moved to adjourn at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Leggieri, Secretary



## Your Cherished Family Recipes Could Be Featured in a Museum Exhibition

The U.S. **National Museum of Women in the Arts** is asking the public to share recipes that document unique family histories.

"Family recipes, whether invented on the fly or handed down through generations, often become treasured heirlooms, offering a window into the private lives, flavors and histories of one's ancestors. Now, the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) is giving the public a chance to share their relatives' beloved recipes with a broader audience.

"The Washington, D.C. institution—the only major museum dedicated exclusively to women artists—is currently accepting submissions for an online exhibition, "Reclamation: Recipes, Remedies, and Ritual," slated to open on January 18. Participants are encouraged to share their family recipes, as well as pictures of the dish, anecdotes and reflections on its significance, through an online form.

"The program is part of the museum's "Women, Arts, and Social Change" initiative, which seeks to highlight "the power of women and the arts as catalysts for change." Per a statement, community

recipe submissions will feature in the museum's first-ever exclusively online, interactive exhibition alongside creations by nine artists.

"[Recipes] will be layered with the artists' work, creating a dynamic portal for exploring the interconnectedness of food and the communal nature of nourishing and curing the body," the statement notes. "In this way, both artists and viewers will use those materials to honor women's roles in the practices and traditions surrounding food."

You can read more in an article by Nora McGreevy in the *Smithsonian Magazine* website at: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/recipe-cherished-exhibition-online-museum-food-history-180976507/>



Smithsonian

## GOLDEN RULES OF GENEALOGY

**There is No Easy Button in Genealogy.** You will work hard to find your ancestors. Genealogy will require more than passion; it will require skills, smarts, and dedication. Don't believe the hype of instant hints, smart matches and shaky leaves. If it were that easy, the journey of discovering our roots would have little or no meaning.

**Research from a Place of "I Don't Know."** Your genealogy research will likely run counter to your cherished family stories. It will upend your preconceived notions about certain events and people. It will change the way you think about your ancestors. This can only happen if you research with an open mind and take off the blinders.

**Track Your Work and Cite Your Sources.** When I started out in genealogy, I'll admit I was a name collector and would "dump" almost any name into my database. Years later, I am crossing out entire branches of a tree that never really should have been "grafted" on to mine. Use a research log, track your work, cite your sources, and analyze data before it is entered into any software or online family tree program.

**Ask for Help.** The genealogy community is populated with people of all skill levels and areas of expertise, most of whom want to assist others. There are no stupid questions; we all started as beginners. There is no right way to ask. Post a query on Facebook or ask a question during a webinar or email your favorite genealogy rock star.

**You Can't Edit a Blank Page.** Which means: you have to start in order to have something to work with. That project you keep putting off, like publishing your family history, won't complete itself. Commit yourself to move from "obsession" to "reality." Remember: *A year from now, you'll wish you had started today.*

**Work and Think Like Your Ancestors.** While I'm not sure about your ancestors, mine were resourceful and developed tools and skills to get what they wanted. They were not "educated" *per se*, but they had "street smarts" and knew where to go so they could learn new things. Also make sure you have a plan; my ancestors didn't just wake up one day and on a whim decide to come to America and make a better life. They had a plan, they had a network of people to help them, and they made it happen.

**You Do Not Own Your Ancestors.** Researching your roots can create emotional connections to not only your ancestors, but to the actual research itself. Many people become "possessive" of their ancestors and fail to realize that a 3rd great-grandparent is likely the ancestor of hundreds of others. You can't take your research or your ancestor with you when you die; take time to share your research and be open to differences in information and research when collaborating with others.

**Be Nice. The Genealogy Community is a Small Place.** While there are millions of people searching for ancestors, genealogists worldwide have developed a community with relatively few degrees of separation. Whether it is online in a Facebook group or in-person at genealogy conference, it is likely you'll already know someone. Being "genealogy nice" is not fake; the connections with other researchers tend to be deep and genuine. We know that all of our roots are inter-locked and a genealogist can't always go it alone.

**Give and Be Abundant.** Exchange information freely with other researchers; don't hold data "close" to you or exchange it in lieu of something else. Most genealogists who have heard me speak know my own story of abundance: Don't let your hand keep a tight grip on information. Let it go. Once your hand is free, it can be open and ready to receive the next good thing coming your way.



*Golden Rules of Genealogy*

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## Texas High School Students Use Technology to Restore Cemeteries' History

"Some Sabine Pass (Texas) School students and their instructor are determined to restore headstones of those buried in nearby cemeteries that date back to the 19th century.

"Noah Escareno, Allan Cantu, and Cody Schaller were in Scott Hagedorn's graphic design class last spring when the coronavirus pandemic interrupted their plans to create these monuments. Through the use of historical data and 21st-century technology, the first headstone will soon be restored.

"It's a long time coming, since we've been working on it for most of last year,' Schaller said. 'It's going to be nice finally getting to finish it, especially since COVID hit to stop it. We worked on it for a long time last year.'

"It took a lot of time and effort, a lot of different days going into the cemetery when it was really cold outside, a lot of field trips and walking with the iPads and phones and taking videos of everything, all the tombstones that were destroyed and where they were at. We had to build a layout of the entire cemetery so we would know where the old tombstones were and the bodies were buried. So, it was a whole lot of work."

The full article is much longer and goes on to describe the use of 3D printing, robotics, a laser-etching machine, and more in the article at: <https://www.panews.com/2020/12/29/sabine-pass-3d-printing-students-working-to-restore-history/>.

## Texas State Genealogical Society announces a Call for Presentations for the Society's 2021 Family History Conference



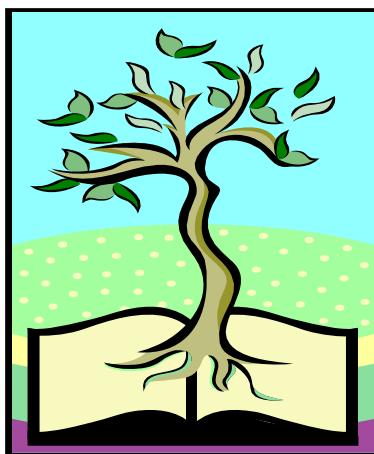
The Texas State Genealogical Society announces a Call for Presentations for their 2021 TxSGS Family History Conference "Connecting Generations." This event, slated for October 1-2, will be held virtually. Selected presentations will be included in a *TxSGS Live!* two-day event with live Q&A; other presentations will be recorded

for an On-Demand program available for replay for 90 days after *TxSGS Live!* The deadline for proposals is February 28, 2021.

The full Call for Presentations may be found at: <https://www.txsgs.org/2021-conference/2021-call-for-presentations/>

### 2020-2022 OFFICERS

- President—Joe Spears
- Vice-President—Stacie Briggs
- Secretary—Beth Leggieri
- Treasurer—Linda Touraine
- Librarian—Laura Douglas
- Webmaster—Chris Strauss
- Membership—Donna Spears
- Newsletter Editor—Kathy Strauss



**NEXT MEETING OF THE DENTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WILL BE ON FEBRUARY 11, 2021 Online Webinar**

DENTON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street  
Denton, TX 76201