

DESS 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 ZOOM MEETING

**Speaker: Thomas MacEntee**

Many genealogists remember the amount of excitement in April 2012 around the release of the 1940 US Census. Following the “72 Year Rule” for records at the National Archives, the results of the 1950 US Census will be made public on Friday, April 1, 2022. It’s never too early to prepare for this valuable data related to US genealogy research!

Participants will get up to speed on the history of the 1950 US Census, why the 1950 US Census form is radically different than previous forms, and how

the data will be accessed. In addition we'll cover what you can do NOW to prepare for the release of the 1950 US Census as well as volunteer projects related to indexing and finding aids. Finally, we'll cover how you can always get the latest information related to the release of the 1950 US Census data!

Using a Zoom Join link like we routinely do, we will start our March 11 meeting at 6:30 p.m. for social time followed at 7 p.m. by a brief business meeting. Then we will disconnect from that Zoom meeting. Everyone who has registered for the Webinar (our program) will connect using a different link. Instructions and links will be emailed to you.



*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)

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Census—Are You Ready?  
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## Are You Recording Fairy Tales in Your Genealogy Records?

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By Dick Eastman

## Tennessee's New State Library and Archives to Open in April

## Focus on Your Female Ancestors During Women's History Month

<div> <div>CONFIDENTIAL</div> <div>           This inquiry is authorized by Act of Congress (45 Stat. 21; 13 U. S. C. 201-218) which requires that a report be made. The information furnished is accorded confidential treatment. The Census report cannot be used for purposes of taxation, investigation, or regulation.         </div> </div>												
FORM		U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE										
P1		BUREAU OF THE CENSUS										
1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING												
FOR PERSONS 14 AND OVER												
How old was he on his last birthday?	Is he now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married?	What State (or foreign country) was he born in?	Foreign born—  Is he naturalized?	What was this person doing most of last week—working, keeping house, or something else?	If H or O: Initialed— Did this person do any work at all last week, not counting work around the house? (Include work for pay, in own business, profession, on farm, or unpaid family work) (Yes or No)	If No: Initialed— Was this person looking for work? (See Special Classes below) (Yes or No)	If No: Initialed— Even though he didn't work last week, does he have a job or business? (Yes or No)	If Wk in item 15 or Yes in item 16— How many hours did he work last week? (Include unpaid work on family farm or business) (Number of hours)	1. If employed (Wk 15)	2. If looking for work (Wk 16)	3. For all other persons (Wk 17)	4. What kind of doing?
(If under one year of age, enter month of birth as April, May, Dec., etc.)	(Mar, Wtd, D, Sep, Nov)	If born outside Continental United States, enter name of Territory, possession, or foreign country	(Yes, No, or AP for born abroad of American parents)	(Wk, H, O, or U for unable to work)					For example: Nails heels on shoes Chemistry professor Farmer Farm helper  Armed forces Never worked			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19				

## PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

Hello, Everyone,

We may be in the era of COVID where lots of things in life are not what we want, but that has not kept us from having excellent programs and strong attendance at our monthly meetings on Zoom. Last month Chris Womack, Crime Analyst of the Denton Police Department, gave an informative and educational program on Genealogy in Criminal Investigation. She was a knowledgeable and well-spoken presenter. Chris even participated in our social, get-acquainted half hour.

Thomas MacEntee will return for our March program. You must register in advance for his Webinar on Getting Ready for the 1950 US Census. Watch your email for registration instructions. Using a Zoom Join link like we routinely do, we will start our March 11 meeting at 6:30 p.m. for social time followed at 7 p.m. by a brief business meeting. Then we will disconnect from that Zoom meeting. Everyone who has registered for the Webinar (our program) will connect using a different link.

Instructions and links will be emailed to you.

I would like everyone to start thinking about meeting in person on May 13 for our annual business meeting and round robin. The location might be Rudy's or the Emily Fowler Library. I know several of us are now fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and in ten more weeks, hopefully most of you will have been vaccinated.

Denton County continues to lead the way in smoothly operating mass vaccination hubs. If you are interested in being vaccinated, click the following link for more info and to register on Denton County's Vaccine Interest Portal. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7c802a848ce04a0999f9831f2ddaaf2e>

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 Feb. 1, 2021** **\$2,822.23**

### Deposits:

02/23 2020-2021 Dues \$50.00

Total Deposits: \$50.00

### Disbursements:

Postage to Kathy Strauss \$55.00

Total disbursements: \$55.00

**Balance February 28, 2021** **\$2,817.23**

2020-2021 Paid Members – 47

### Library Donations

April 1995 – May 2006 \$2,876.52

June 2006 – June 2012 \$3,310.00

July 2012 – February 2021 \$2,925.53

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Touraine, Treasurer



## FEBRUARY 2021 MINUTES

President Joe Spears called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He introduced himself and welcomed everyone. There were 32 members attending and guests David Nowotnik, Christy Walton, Eve Roberts, Cathy Straley, and Jane Sanzone. Secretary Beth Leggieri is feeling better and expects to be back soon. Sandra Robertson is acting secretary tonight.

The motion to approve the January 2021 minutes as published in the Newsletter was made by Linda Lane and seconded by John Windsor. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

### Old Business

There was no old business.

### New Business

The March program will be a webinar by Thomas MacEntee. The topic is: 1950 US Census—Are You Ready.

### Announcements

Roots Tech Virtual Conference is February 25-27, 2021. Registration is free.

Our next meeting is March 11, 2021 on Zoom.

National Genealogical Virtual Conference is May 17-21, 2021. Registration is now open.

[ngsgenealogy.org](https://ngsgenealogy.org).

### Program

Laura Douglas introduced Chris Womack, Crime Analyst for Denton Police Department, who presented the program: Genealogy in Criminal Investigation.

Audrey Mabe moved to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. and was seconded by Donna Spears.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Robertson, Acting Secretary



## NEW PHOTOS: BUFFALO SOLDIERS at WEST POINT

According to an article in the U.S. National Archives News:

"Photographs of Buffalo Soldiers serving at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, during the early 20th century recently came to light at the National Archives. The images were discovered by a preservationist who was digitizing thousands of nitrate negatives transferred from the Academy to the Still Picture Branch of the National Archives at College Park, MD. Recognized for their expertise in riding, African American cavalry noncommissioned officers of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments were stationed at West Point to serve in the Academy's Detachment of Cavalry and teach Academy cadets military horsemanship. Starting in 1907, the detachment became a "colored unit" composed of African American soldiers during a time when the military was still racially segregated. The Buffalo Soldiers instructed cadets until 1947."

You can see many of the pictures at <https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/buffalo-soldiers-west-point-photos>.



## ARE YOU RECORDING FAIRY TALES in YOUR GENEALOGY RECORDS?

by Dick Eastman

A newsletter reader wrote to me a while ago expressing unhappiness with all the erroneous information found in online family trees. The bogus information is usually found in family tree information submitted by other users of whatever online family tree service is being used at the moment.

My belief is that this newsletter reader wasn't spending much time looking at online images of census, birth, marriage, and death records or at other online documents of value to genealogists: old newspapers, military pension files, and such things.

I decided to share my response publicly in this newsletter so that others could either benefit from or reject my ideas and suggestions.

Instead of spending your time looking at other people's fairy tales, I suggest you look at original records and newspapers (or digital images of original records and newspapers). That's the manner that experienced genealogists have used for decades, and it has always worked well.

Luckily, millions of such records are available online today, unlike the days when I started doing genealogy in the 1980s. In "the old days," I often had to go to the locations where the records were kept. I spent a lot of money on travel and on photocopying machines. However, the expense was worth it. I got accurate results most of the time.

Back in the 1980s, we also had thousands of self-published books written by other genealogists with claims of their family trees. Those books were just as inaccurate as today's online family trees. Those books often were a mix of facts and conjecture, often accompanied by so-called "family coats of arms" and similar fictitious material.

Sadly, in the 1980s and earlier, thousands of new genealogists did not understand the difference between unsourced information versus documented records. A lot of junk claims were copied, republished, and distributed all over the place.

I will suggest that online databases of genealogy information intermixed with fairy tales hasn't really changed genealogy very much. The only difference today is that computers and online capabilities allow

genealogists to publish accurate and inaccurate information alike faster, easier, and at less expense than ever before.

My belief is that the **PERCENTAGE** of inaccurate genealogy information hasn't changed much in many decades. What has changed is the **QUANTITY** of both accurate and inaccurate information available today.

The reality is that the basics of good genealogy research haven't changed in the past century, even though we certainly have more convenient access today than ever. In short, any genealogy claims you find that are not accompanied by verifiable source citations to original records should be treated as a potential fairy tale.

Please don't get me wrong: I still love the online family trees submitted by other genealogists, and I look at them often. I have thousands of such claims saved in various note files in my computer. I always want to know what someone else thinks is a fact. I want to save those possible fairy tales until I can verify the information myself through independent, well-trusted sources. In most cases, that means looking at an original record, either in person or as an online image.

I still want to know what another person believes is true, even though I have some doubts. Knowing someone else's guesses is still better than knowing nothing at all about an ancestor. There are times when someone else's guess gives me a clue as to what to look for to see if I can confirm or refute it. I never, ever enter possible fairy tale information into my primary genealogy database until I have independently verified its accuracy in the original records.

My belief is that your genealogy collection of facts can be better and more accurate today than ever before – if you really care about accuracy.

Anyone who doesn't care about accuracy probably isn't reading this article anyway.

What's in your (possibly bogus) family tree?



## TENNESSEE'S NEW STATE LIBRARY and ARCHIVES BUILDING WILL OPEN in APRIL

Tennessee State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherill recently stated that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new State Library and Archives Building for the facility in Nashville will take place April 12.

Work began in 2005 on the \$123.8 million project and a groundbreaking took place in late 2017. The new building is located just outside downtown on the Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park.



## FOCUS ON YOUR FEMALE ANCESTORS DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

National Women's History Month traces its roots to March 8, 1857, when women from various New York City factories staged a protest over poor working conditions. The first Women's Day celebration in the United States was in 1909, also in New York City. More than seven decades later, Congress in 1981 established National Women's History Week to be commemorated annually the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month.

The Editors of *Family Tree Magazine* have published helpful tips to help the researcher find their female ancestors' maiden names.

### 1. Research indirect records

Research the woman indirectly, seeking records of her relatives—husband, father, siblings and children. She may be named as an heir, witness or traveling companion. A letter may mention her, too.

### 2. Try searching marriage records

Marriage records are most likely to contain a woman's maiden name. If you notice from censuses most of her children were born in one county, start your marriage records search there. Look for a certificate and license application in county records. Churches many have marriage bonds or banns. Study historical newspapers, too, for an announcement.

### 3. Follow her children

Seek records on each of a woman's children, even those not in your line, including birth and baptism records, marriage records and death records. One may give a maiden name if others don't. Also note others named, especially witnesses, as they may be her relatives.

### 4. Do some cemetery research

In the tombstone, look at plots near hers, since families often were buried near each other. Study the caretaker's burial records for more information about those people, and to see if anyone was buried nearby without a headstone.

### 5. Find evidence to support or refute potential names

Once you have a guess at a surname, start researching families in the area with that surname to see if any have children with your female ancestor's first name. Keep note of all the clues that support, as well as those that refute, the conclusion you've found your ancestor's maiden name. It's likely that a collection of clues will lead to her name, rather than a single momentous record that states, "I, Mary Smith Pearson ..."

The women in your family may sometimes be elusive, but they are the heart of the family. We will be rewarded if we put forth the extra effort to find them.

### 2020-2022 OFFICERS

**President—Joe Spears**

**Vice-President—Stacie Briggs**

**Secretary—Beth Leggieri**

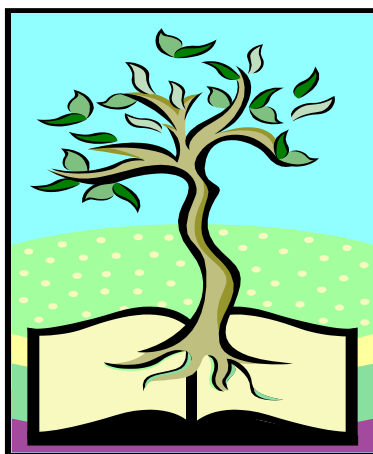
**Treasurer—Linda Touraine**

**Librarian—Laura Douglas**

**Webmaster—Chris Strauss**

**Membership—Donna Spears**

**Newsletter Editor—Kathy Strauss**



**NEXT MEETING OF THE  
DENTON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY WILL BE ON  
APRIL 8, 2021  
Online Webinar**

DENTON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street  
Denton, TX 76201