

DGGS 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

MAY MEETING BUSINESS MEETING / ROUND ROBIN



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

The Denton County Genealogical Society will hold its monthly meeting, in-person, on **Thursday, May 13, 2021 at Rudy's "Country Store" and Bar-B-Q, 520 Interstate 35 Frontage Road.** We will have a social time, and share a meal, if you would like, beginning at 6:30 p.m., the meeting and program will follow.

This month's meeting will be a round table discussion of member's experiences with serendipity, unexpected results, and eureka moments in their research. One of the best ways to make new discoveries in your own genealogical research is to hear about the successes of others. The Round Robin session will follow our brief annual business meeting. Visitors welcome.

DRC DISCOVERIES

What will you find in historical issues of the Denton

Did you know Amelia Earhart visited Denton? That the first movie shown at the Campus Theater was "I Was a Male War Bride," which starred Denton native, Ann Sheridan? Or that Denton's segregated baseball team was the Denton Tigers?

More issues of the *Denton Record-Chronicle (DRC)* have been scanned and made freely available on the Portal to Texas History. To find out more about the *Denton Record-Chronicle* Digitization Project the Denton Public Library has developed a 25-minute presentation highlighting the TexTreasure Grant program, which funded the project, and how to search the newspapers in the Portal to Texas History. The presentation can be found at <https://my.nicheacademy.com/dplondemand>.

The TexTreasures grant program is designed to help libraries make their special collections more accessible for the people of Texas and beyond. The Denton Public Library has received two years of funding to digitize microfilmed

issues of the DRC. The grant funds received in 2019 were used to digitize and make freely available on the Portal to Texas History 24,000 pages of the DRC, from 1908 through 1924, representing the earliest years of microfilm available in the collection. The grant funds received in 2020 allowed the Library to continue the digitization project through 1954.

This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (Grant #LS-246193-OLS-20)* to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act. (2021)

Take a look at old issues of the DRC on the Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/DRC/> – what will you discover?

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PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

Hello, Everyone,

As we approach our summer break, I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support, attendance, and participation in DCGS during this exceptional year. Looking back, our attendance has remained steady; our membership has increased slightly; and our programs have been interesting and educational.

Looking forward, the pandemic will be over, and we can resume meeting at Emily Fowler Library in September. Our program committee has ideas and is working together to provide programs that help us become better researchers. We have some work to do before we offer hybrid meetings which are a combination of Zoom and meeting in person. Zoom certainly let us have different speakers from outside North Texas.

I hope to see lots of you at our Annual Business Meeting and May Round Robin at 6:30 pm on May 13 at Rudy's Bar-B-Q on the eastbound service road

at 520 S. I-35E. After you have purchased your food, join us in the private dining room which we have reserved for the evening.

Reminder: DCGS dues for 2021-2022 are due in May. Write your check now and put it in your wallet so you will have it on May 13 to give to our Treasurer.

Stay well and stay safe.

Joe Spears
Email: argyleiris@verizon.net



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance April 1, 2021 **\$2,667.23**

2020-2021 Paid Members – 47

Deposits:

Total Deposits: \$00.00

Disbursements:

Total disbursements: \$00.00

Library Donations

April 1995 – May 2006 \$2,876.52

June 2006 – June 2012 \$3,310.00

July 2012 – April 2021 \$2,925.53

Balance April 30, 2021 **\$2,667.23**

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Touraine, Treasurer



Dues for 2021-2022 can be paid at the May Meeting or sent to the Treasurer

APRIL 2021 MINUTES

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

The motion to approve the March minutes as published in the newsletter was made by Bob Lane and seconded by Audrey Mabe. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

Old Business

Denton County Genealogical Society will resume meeting in person at the May meeting.

New Business

Stacie Briggs resigned her position as Vice President and Program Chair for the 2020-2022 term. A vote will be held in May to fill the vacant position.

President Spears called for program idea submissions for the 2021-2022 year.

Research is underway to record in-person meetings.

Announcements

The May 13th meeting will mark the society's resumption of in-person meetings and will be held at Rudy's Barbeque beginning at 6:30 with members making dinner purchases through the restaurant buffet line. The annual Round Table program will follow the business meeting that begins at 7 pm.

The May meeting marks the collection of annual dues; single members are \$20 and couple memberships are \$30. Dues may be paid in person at the meeting or mailed to: Denton County Genealogical Society % Denton Public Library, 502 Oakland, Denton, Texas 76201.

Laura Douglas announced that the Emily Fowler Library will re-open May 1 for "grab and go" patronage. Special Collections appointments can be made for two-hour increments. Both the collection and computers are available for browsing.

The National Genealogical Society Virtual Conference is May 17-21 with registration now open, ngsgenealogy.org.

Program

Laura Douglas, Special Collections librarian presented "Using Historical Newspapers to Uncover Denton History" using a case study approach. Q&A following the presentation included the mention of Elephind and Chronicling America as additional resources for newspaper research.

John Windsor moved to adjourn at 7:56 pm and was seconded by Audrey Mabe.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Leggieri, Secretary



ANCESTOR STRONG

American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society just launched a new project this week, to be called **Ancestor Strong**. It depends upon submissions from users who are willing to share stories about the tough times their ancestors (and others) lived through. Wars, pandemics, oppression, displacement, economic crisis, and similar stories are strong candidates for stories that can be shared with others. If you have a story that should be shared, you might want to contribute.

As we all process the last year of tremendous challenge and change, there is an opportunity to reflect upon our lives in the context of history and our ancestors. Many of us have heard family stories about the tough times they lived through. Wars, pandemics, oppression, displacement, economic crisis – our foremothers and fathers often had it rougher than we do now.

In the spirit of finding inspiration and strength from those who came before us, we've asked members and visitors to share interesting family stories for a new web project –

Ancestor Strong. The memories provided thus far are a testament to the courage, tenacity, and faith of generations past.

To date we've received nearly 50 responses and are looking for many more. We're hoping an article would help us get the word out about the call for entries, as well as give these stories a wider audience. Anyone can visit the site, and via a simple form, submit a story on behalf of an ancestor who inspired them.

You can page through to see the existing submissions; and scroll down on the home page to see the "Share Your Ancestor's Story" button, which leads to a submission page.

<https://ancestorstrong.americanancestors.org/>

Ancestor STRONG
STORIES OF RESOLVE

MOST FRENCH CANADIANS ARE DESCENDED FROM 800 WOMEN KNOWN AS THE FILLES du ROI

If you have French-Canadian ancestry, you probably have one, two, or perhaps a dozen **filles du roi** in your family tree. Several of them even have proven lines of descent from Charlemagne and a number of other royal families from throughout Europe. Obviously, that makes you a descendant of Charlemagne and other royal families.

Who were these young French women known as les filles du roi? They traveled from France to what was then called New France, now known as Québec, between 1663 and 1673 as part of a program designed to boost the population by encouraging male immigrants to settle, marry French women, and raise families.

In the early days, Québec (then called New France) was settled almost entirely by men. The early population consisted mostly of fur trappers, other adventurers, priests, and soldiers. As the years went by, farmers joined the immigrants as well. A few women did pay their own passage, but few single women wanted to leave their familiar places to move and settle in the harsh climate and conditions of New France. The lack of suitable female companionship encouraged the men of Québec to seek wives amongst the native population. The natives were mostly non-Christian, a source of concern to the many Jesuit priests who also were in Québec at the time.

As if the farmers and fur trappers didn't have enough competition finding wives, King Louis XIV sent almost 1,200 soldiers of the Carignan-Salières regiment to Québec in 1665 to fight the Iroquois Indians, who were aggressive and killed many settlers. The soldiers were deployed at strategic points of the territory to defend the colony and its residents. The regiment was successful, and a peace treaty with the Iroquois was signed on July 10, 1667. The Regiment then returned to France but left behind 400 soldiers and officers, aged between 19 and 30, who all agreed to remain in the country as settlers. With an additional 400 young men added to the colony, the marriage problems worsened. Jean Talon, intendant of New France, carried out the colony's first census. He recorded that the population was a bit more than 3,000, with 719 unmarried males and only 45 unmarried females living in the colony. This did not bode well for the future of the settlement.

The growth of population in the competing English colonies to the south, including married couples, also created concern among some French officials about their ability to maintain their claim in the New World.

In the custom of the day, the oldest daughter of a family in France received as large a dowry as possible from her parents to improve her chances of marriage. Dowries often included furniture, household articles, silver, land, or other inherited goods. Younger daughters of the same family typically received smaller dowries. Daughters of impoverished families often received no dowry at all, which reduced their chances of finding a suitable mate. These younger daughters were prime candidates for an opportunity in the New World.

The Intendant of New France, Jean Talon, proposed that King Louis XIV sponsor passage of at least 500 women to New France. The king agreed, and eventually nearly twice the number were recruited. They were predominantly between the ages of 12 and 25, and many had to supply a letter of reference from their parish priest before they would be chosen for emigration to New France. Research by the historical demographer Yves Landry determines that there were in total about 770 to 850 filles du roi who settled in New France between 1663 and 1673.

About 80% of the filles du roi were from the Paris, Normandy and Western regions of France. Others came from rural areas and a few were from other countries. According to the records of Marie de l'Incarnation, who knew many of these women personally, there were among them one Moor (a black woman of African descent), one Portuguese, one German, and one Dutch woman.

All were women of fine moral character, as verified by the recommendation from a priest that each woman needed to obtain before being accepted for emigration.

The King of France paid for transportation to New France of any eligible young woman. He also offered a dowry for each, to be awarded upon her marriage to

Continued...

a young Frenchman. Each woman's dowry typically consisted of 1 chest, 1 taffeta kerchief, 1 ribbon for shoes, 100 needles, 1 comb, 1 spool of white thread, 1 pair of stockings, 1 pair of gloves, 1 pair of scissors, 2 knives, about 1,000 pins, 1 bonnet, 4 laces, and 2 silver livres (French coins). Many also received chickens, pigs, and other livestock. Because the King of France paid the dowries instead of the parents, these women were referred to as the "Daughters of the King," or "Filles du roi."

These hardy immigrant women married, often within days after their arrival in New France. The ships carrying the filles du roi would travel up the St. Lawrence River, stopping first at Québec, then at Trois-Rivières, and lastly at Montréal. Most of the filles du roi married and raised families. In fact, many of them raised large families in the tradition of the day. Many of their sons and daughters went on to also have large families, and so on and so forth for generations. As a result, millions of living people are descended from this group of pioneer women. Descendants of the filles du roi today may be found throughout Canada, the United States, and many other countries.

An alphabetical listing of all the known Filles du Roi and their husbands is available at <https://fillesduroi.org/cpage.php?pt=9>.

The same web site provides a lot more information about the Filles du Roi and then provides an extensive

list of references to other reputable sources of information at <https://fillesduroi.org/cpage.php?pt=24>.

There are many other Web sites devoted to the Filles du roi. Use your favorite search engine to find them or click here for a search on Google.

Not all of the filles du roi came from impoverished families. Several appear to have been the younger daughters of rather wealthy families, including some with royal ancestry. Perhaps the best-documented royal ancestry of a filles du roi is that of Catherine de Baillon, tracing her ancestry back to Charlemagne (and before) along with connections to many other royal families throughout Europe.

A rather good description of Catherine de Baillon's ancestry back to Charlemagne may be found at: <http://www.quebec.acadian-home.org/catherine-de-baillon.html> and another at <http://habitant.org/baillon/>.

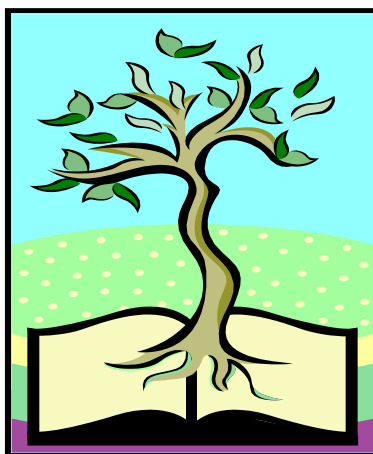


*The Arrival of the French Girls at Quebec, 1667.
Image is courtesy of Wikimedia.*

HAVE A SAFE AND HEALTHY SUMMER!!

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
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 AT
THE EMILY FOWLER
CENTRAL LIBRARY, 502
OAKLAND ST., DENTON,
TEXAS**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201