

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 MEETING



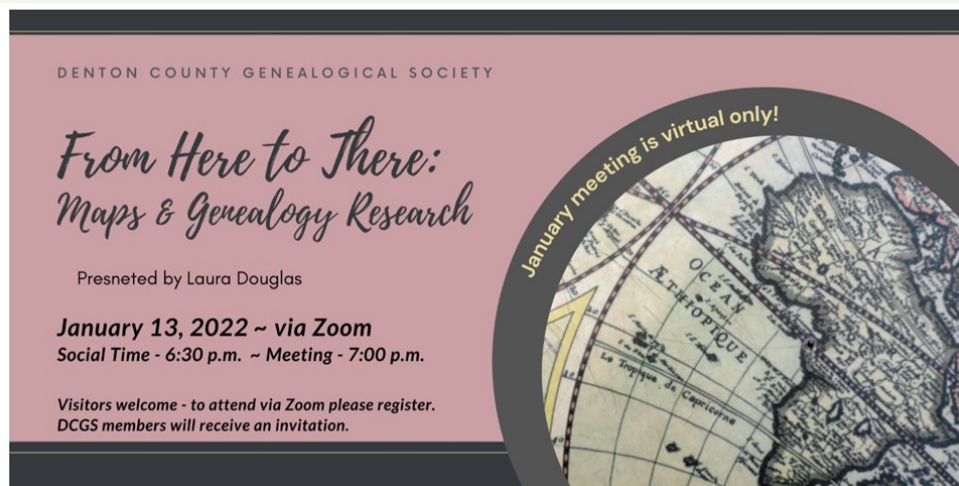
1896- Denton County Courthouse-

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

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Join us for the monthly Denton County Genealogical Society meeting, Thursday, January 13, 2022. We will connect by Zoom only for this month's meeting. An online social time will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by our monthly business meeting which will begin at 7 p.m. The program will begin about 7:15 p.m.

The program for the night is "From Here to There: Maps and Genealogy Research" presented by Laura Douglas. Location is vital to accessing the correct record sets when researching your family history. Maps are a key to understanding where our ancestors lived. For example, sometimes in our research it appears as if our ancestors moved when actually it was a boundary line that moved not the family. This presentation will provide tips for using maps in your research and how to locate online map repositories.

Laura Douglas, is the librarian in charge of the Special Collections with the Denton Public Library. Laura has a Bachelor of Science degree in History from Texas Woman's University and received her Master of Library Science degree from the University of North Texas in 2003. She has worked at Denton Public in various positions for 30 years including children's services, adult services, genealogy and local history. In addition to getting to help other people with their ancestry hunt Laura teaches genealogical research classes at the public library.

Visitors are welcome. If you are not a member of the DCGS and would like to attend, please register at: <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/events/61d4901f1408782f0082a117> by Wednesday, January 12, 6 p.m. to receive an invitation email to the Zoom event.

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

Hello, Everyone,

Welcome to 2022. Our January 13 meeting is scheduled to be a hybrid meeting, provided the Emily Fowler Library is open. Social time starts at 6:30 pm for those attending in person. The business meeting and program will start at 7 pm. Our speaker will be Laura Douglas. The Zoom meeting join link will be emailed a couple of days before the meeting to all dues-paying members.

We will continue our succession planning presentations. In February we will be selecting and electing a nominating committee. Two people will be appointed by the Board, and three will be elected from the membership at large. I am requesting volunteers for the Nominating Committee to contact me. I hope you will seriously consider serving a two-year term either as an officer or as a committee chair. It is time

for you to step up and serve DCGS so some of our long-serving Board members can retire (including me).

Stay well and stay safe. I look forward to being together again at our next meeting.

Joe Spears

Email: presidentdcgs@gmail.com



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Oct. 31, 2021	\$3,287.23	2021-2022 Paid Members – 48	
Deposits:		Library Donations	
None		April 1995 – May 2006	\$2,876.52
		June 2006 – June 2012	\$3,310.00
		July 2012 – December 2021	\$2,925.53
Total Deposits:	\$ 0.00		
Disbursements:			
November program	\$ 200.00	Respectfully Submitted,	
		Linda Touraine, Treasurer,	
Total Disbursements:	\$200.00		
Balance Dec. 31, 2021	\$3,087.23		



NOVEMBER 2021 MINUTES

President Joe Spears called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. There were 21 members present at Emily Fowler Public Library and 9 members attending by Zoom. There were 22 persons from at least six states attending on Zoom. The President led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. All veterans present were honored by standing in front of the room during the Pledge. Veterans were members Terry Brantley, Bob Lane, Joe Spears, Chris Strauss, and guest C. Burden. Membership Chair Donna Spears welcomed visitors.

The motion to approve the October, 2021 Minutes as published in the Newsletter was made by John Windsor and seconded by Kathi Coatney. Motion passed. There were no questions about the Treasurer's Report as published in the Newsletter, and it was filed for audit.

Old Business

In February 2022, a Nominating Committee must be named. Several officers and committee chairs want to retire. Tonight two officers - Secretary and Vice President described their duties. Sandra Robertson, Secretary, said duties are writing minutes, sending draft copy to President and Membership Chair. Writing final copy of Minutes and sending them to Newsletter Chair to be published in DCGS Newsletter. Approval of Minutes is requested from the members at the next meeting. Beth Leggieri, Vice President, recognized the need for mentorship and collaboration. She is sending a

survey to members after each meeting to ascertain opinions of program and speaker. This data is helpful in planning for future programs. She is also writing a job description for Vice President.

New Business

President Spears said that visitors must register with the Library to attend a meeting of the DCGS on Zoom. Members do not need to register with the Library to attend on Zoom. Members receive a Zoom link in the email reminder of the next meeting.

Announcements

No meeting is scheduled in December. The next meeting is January 13, 2022. Laura Douglas will present "From Here to There: Maps and Genealogy Research."

Program

Beth Leggieri introduced Lisa Louise Cooke who presented "How to Organize All This Genealogy Stuff."

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Robertson, Secretary



UPDATED PROGRAM LINE-UP FOR SPRING 2022

From Here to There: Maps and Genealogy Research presented by Laura Douglas

Thurs 1/13 via Zoom 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Blacksmithing on the Texas Frontier: Historic Archeology at the Tom Cook Blacksmith Shop in Bolivar, Denton County, Texas presented by Douglas Boyd

Thurs 2/10 Emily Fowler 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Everyday Life of our Ancestors presented by Ann Staley (via Zoom)

Thurs 3/10 Emily Fowler 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Preservation – From the UNT Archives to Your Family History Presented by Justin Lemons and Jodi Rhinehart-Doty

Thurs 4/14 Emily Fowler 6:30-8:30 p.m.



1950 CENSUS RELEASE WILL OFFER ENHANCED DIGITAL ACCESS, PUBLIC COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITY

With the scheduled April 1, 2022, release of 1950 Census records a little more than three months away, the National Archives is completing efforts to digitize those records and using technology to make them more accessible than ever.

“Employees from across the agency have worked on digitizing and indexing the records and developing and testing a new, dedicated 1950 Census website,” said Project Manager Carol Lagundo, who leads the 1950 Census project at National Archives. “It’s taken innovation and creativity to keep this project on track throughout the pandemic and to continue to meet our project milestones. We hope the public will benefit from our hard work.”

The new website will include a name search function powered by an Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology tool. This is important for genealogists and other researchers who rely on census records for new information about the nation’s past.

“The OCR being used to transcribe the handwritten names from the census rolls is about as good as the human eye,” said Project Management Director Rodney Payne. “Some of the pages are legible, and others are difficult to decipher. So, the National Archives developed a transcription tool to enable users to submit name updates. This will allow other users to find specific names more easily, and it provides an opportunity for the public to help the agency share these records with the world.” National Archives officials are encouraging interested members of the public to use the transcription tool and assist the agency to make the records as accurate as possible.

“This is an exciting project for the National Archives, and we know it is important information for so many Americans. We are looking forward to collaborating with the public to refine and enhance the first draft of OCR-created names. This is a great example of automating as much as we can and then collaborating with the public to make access happen,” said Chief Innovation Officer Pamela Wright.

The website is currently in development and will undergo rigorous testing in the coming months to ensure a successful launch.

The National Archives is also working to provide bulk download access of the full 1950 Census dataset on launch day. This will be of interest to digital humanists, web developers, social scientists, and anyone wanting to

explore aggregations of the records. Other organizations and companies will be able to use this functionality to provide 1950 Census data on their own websites.

When made available on the Amazon Web Services Registry of Open Data, the 1950 Census dataset—over 165 terabytes of data—will include the metadata index, the population schedules, the enumeration district maps, and the enumeration district descriptions for the 1950 Census records. This is approximately 10 times the size of the 1940 Census dataset.

Included in the dataset are approximately:

- 6.5 million digital TIFF images and corresponding JPEG derivative images of the microfilmed “1950 Census of Population and Housing” forms for U.S. states and territories
- 33,215 TIFF images and corresponding JPEG derivative images of the original paper “1950 Census of Population and Housing: Indian Reservation Schedule” forms
- 9,600 digitized images of the 1950 Census Enumeration District Maps, which are annotated maps of counties, cities, and other minor civil divisions that show enumeration districts, census tract, and related boundaries and numbers used for each census
- 63,000 digitized images of the 1950 Census Enumeration District Descriptions, which are written descriptions of geographic areas included within enumeration districts
- 232,000 1950 Census Enumeration District Descriptions, which were produced by generating OCR output of the Enumeration District Description images. More than 25 NARA staff reviewed and cleaned up the OCR output.

For more information see, NARA’s [1950 Census blog posts on History Hub](#).

Resources for earlier censuses as well as tips for searching these records are available on [Archives.gov](#).

Reports and statistics from the 1950 census are available [through the U.S. Census Bureau](#)

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE DAVID RUMSEY MAP CENTER

The map center, home to an estimated 250,000 physical maps and more than 200,000 digital maps from 1500 to the present is a cross between a library and a laboratory, replete with leatherbound atlases, spinning globes, enormous high-definition touchscreens and several virtual reality stations.

The idea is for the center to serve as an arena for experimentation and education where individuals, regardless of their scholarship on maps, can explore the primary documents and their scanned, digital counterparts in order to perhaps learn a little bit about where we've come from and where we are today.

At the heart of that endeavor is the digitization of Rumsey's vast physical collection, a project he began in the late 1990s when he launched davidrumsey.com, a constantly growing aggregation of about 112,000 digitized historical maps from his personal inventory. Rumsey, 77, is in the process of donating his entire map collection — more than 200,000 physical maps plus the digital ones — to Stanford so that they can be cataloged for the enjoyment of generations to come.

"It's not only a database; it allows people to get lost inside it, no pun intended," he said. "If you make it really usable and accessible the way ours is, it just becomes something different."

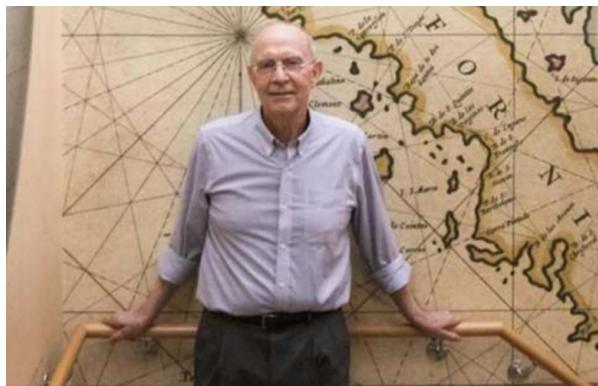
The map center, which opened in 2016, has been called the "gold standard" of map libraries and is at the forefront of some of the most advanced map exploration technology. Visitors are able to experiment with georeferencing, 2-D and 3-D map overlays, and virtual and augmented reality equipment — much of that made possible in part by Stanford's high-resolution scanners that produce stunning digital maps with up to 800 pixels per inch.

Georeferencing allows a user to digitally place a historical map on top of a modern map. The user can change the transparency of the old map to see the modern map underneath, revealing changes over time and combining unique aspects of each map.

"The beauty of the old maps is the way they were drawn, the artistry involved," Rumsey said. "But from an informational perspective, they're history. Everything happens somewhere, so they are ways of seeing history."

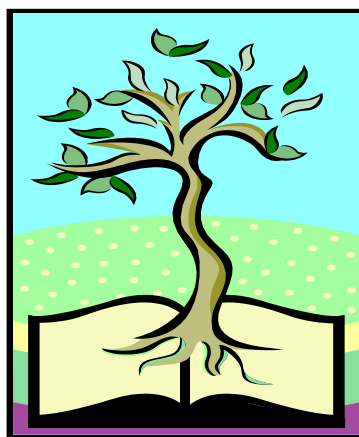
Throughout the next few years, the center will continue to advance the technology it makes available to visitors, Rumsey and Mohammed, the center's curator, said. They hope to incorporate artificial intelligence to make it possible to search for words on digitized maps regardless of their orientation or position, as well as a framework for systematically searching digital map files across platforms and databases. They're also looking to put greater emphasis on data visualization and to expand into the metaverse, which could "pull users into the map world," Rumsey said.

"It's way more than just the individual maps; it's about the use of the maps," Rumsey said. "We try to push the boundaries."



2020-2022 OFFICERS

President—Joe Spears
Vice-President—Beth Leggieri
Secretary—Sandra Robertson
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 10, 2022 AT
 THE EMILY FOWLER
 CENTRAL LIBRARY, 502
 OAKLAND ST., DENTON,
 TEXAS**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201