

DCGS News

THE ANCESTOR PROJECT KICKS OFF 22-23

Inspired by Ann Staley's "The Everyday Lives of Our Ancestors" presentation in March, a band of DCGS members embarked on *The Ancestor Project* over the summer, to intensely research and document an ancestor in their historical context. Participants will present a written document on their subject, and discuss their findings with the society, when DCGS kicks off the 2022-23 programming year on Thursday, September 8 at the Emily Fowler Library. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., with the presentation following at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

The Ancestor Project participants have formulated research questions, conducted independent research, and met collaboratively in once-a-month workshops held in June, July and August at the Emily Fowler Central Library. There,

participants discussed research, brainstormed ideas, shared resources, and enjoyed fellow researchers' energy and drive to complete both research and writing.



Projects run the gamut of historical times and geographic locations. Eileen O'Neill seeks the answer to the question, "Why did Henry Mathews move his family from Georgia to Alabama some time after 1813, and then back to Georgia before 1830?" Emily Richardson is focusing on her ancestor

Minerva Whipkey's short life in rural Somerset and Fayette, Pennsylvania in the mid-late 1800s. Jane Sanzone is researching the life of Benjamin Holt of Pembroke, New Hampshire, who died on the eve of the American Revolution, while Mary Tate declares, "Rev. Thomas Allen Collins: BRICK WALL No More!" Other projects focus on locations from Pennsylvania to Tennessee to Devon and Somerset, England, and topics as diverse as what accounted for an ancestor's surname change, or why an ancestor was committed to an asylum, among others.

DCGS vice president and participant Beth Leggieri commented, "Collaboration and collegiality marked our workshops over the summer. All agree that a focus and a deadline have jump-started our research. 'Some day I will...' became 'Today I have...' We are gaining a better sense our DCGS community's strengths, while cheering one another on."

Bring your curiosity to our September 8th DCGS meeting, and learn what *The Ancestor Project* excitement is all about.

Image: "The Stapleton Family, at the Rodney, Easter Monday 1907" by whatsthatpicture is marked with CC PDM 1.0.

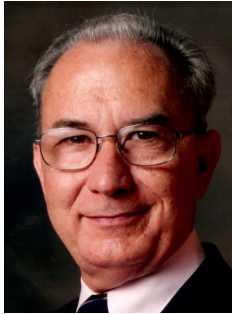


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Photo: Jones Photographic Studios of America. Studio No. 1, Denton, Texas. Fireworks at the Denton County Courthouse Celebrating the End of World War I, photograph, 1918~; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph12494/m1/1/?q=denton%20courthouse>; accessed June 1, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Denton Public Library.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The thing is the story!

Elizabeth Shown Mills noted some family historians decry "books crammed with footnotes," and may think, "We don't want numbered ancestors and source citations. That stuff is *bor-inning*! We want

an *interesting* family history."¹

Well, that is an excellent comment on the expectations of consumers of genealogical writings. But the focus is the need for written genealogies. Genealogy is, after all, history. If a person is to be influenced by genealogy, they must experience a story—not numbers, chronological lists, or dates. While all these are very important to the genealogical researcher, the next step is to make a story of that record.

The story frames the data into the telling of ... a family, community, or educational event, or whatever sparks an interest. Who would watch a Ken Burns' documentary if it were only a reading of names and dates? Ken turns facts into stories. And so should we.

Don't be daunted by the thought of writing. Do not ponder long over what is the BEST sentence or paragraph. First, write whatever comes to your mind. Edit the writing later. Staring at a page for a long time, will not result in "good" writing—it will simply result in either frustration or a nap!

As we approach DCGS's new program year, I hope we become better writers of our genealogy. Regardless of your level of writing expertise, there is always room for improvement.

Welcome to another exciting year in the life of DCGS!

—Robert L. Lane

presidentdcgs@gmail.com

MEMBERS: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

DCGS News wants to celebrate your victories, research happy dances, and good genealogical news. We're rolling out two new initiatives to help you keep up with your fellow members.

♦ **DCGS Member Connect**—Do you have a eureka moment to share? Have an idea for an article? Volunteering on a worthy genealogical project? Want to update the society on a new resource you've found? DCGS Member Connect is the place to do it. Complete the form [HERE](#), and your news may be featured in the next issue of *DCGS News*.

♦ **DCGS Ancestor Question of the Month**—Every month, we'll ask members a different question, with changing themes. September celebrates Labor Day with the question: "***What was the most unusual occupation one of your ancestor's had?***" Click [HERE](#) to submit your answer for this month. We'll feature answers in the next *DCGS News*.

Finally, your ongoing input on programming is sought:

♦ **Monthly Meeting Follow-Up Surveys**—Many thanks to all members who completed the 2022-23 Programming Survey. Your answers help guide the Programming Committee to engage interesting speakers with timely topics to share. Help us continue to fine-tune offerings by taking a moment to complete each month's follow-up survey, sent via email to attendees.



2022-23 DCGS PROGRAM PREVIEW

Mark your calendars now to attend these great upcoming DCGS programs:

September 8—The Ancestor Project - Inspired by “The Everyday Lives of Our Ancestors,” DCGS members embarked on an intensive summer research endeavor, and will share their findings. Come hear about ancestors from Tennessee to Pennsylvania, England to Kentucky, spanning several time periods.

October 13—Expanding Horizons: Local to Int’l Genealogy Learning, with Emily Coffman Richardson - Most genealogy hobbyists use their local genealogy society as their go-to place for education. But even before the Zoom phenomenon, there were learning opportunities from regional, state, national, and international genealogy societies. Come learn about the multitude of experiences designed and available to YOU—whether a hobbyist or a pro—or somewhere in between.

November 10—The Butterfield Overland Stage and Mail, with Robin Cole-Jett, The Red River Historian - Few know that the Butterfield route passed through our area, as close as Whitesboro and Gainesville—with occasional forays into Denton itself. The Red River Historian, Robin Cole-Jett will transport us back to the heyday of this storied stage coach line.

January 12, 2023—Unfamiliar Territory, Researching in a New Geographic Area, with Cari Taplin, CG - Researching in a new locality? Cari will teach how to begin research in an unfamiliar region, how to get familiar with counties, towns, and geographic features, demonstrate how to determine what records are available both online and offline, and show how to create a research guide.



February 9, 2023—Mysterious Relatives, with Ari Wilkins -

Many researchers encounter mysterious persons living in the household of a relative; or a letter signed by an unknown ‘cousin.’ As a researcher, it is important to investigate and understand the relationship between these strangers and your person of interest. This lecture will discuss cluster research methodology.

March 9, 2023—I Have a Civil War Ancestor... Now What? with Brian Rhinehart - Civil War soldiers often left a rich genealogical paper trail. Many records are tucked away at the

National Archives in Washington D.C. Learn which records are available only at NARA, which are online, and how to access them all. Unlock forgotten family stories, and maybe break down a brick wall or two!

April 13, 2023—Speaker TBA

May 11—Member Roundtable, with DCGS Members - Share your remarkable discoveries of the past year with your colleagues.



DCGS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT COMING

The Program Committee has embarked on an exciting initiative with the Special Collections librarians of Emily Fowler Library to capture and honor the early years of the Denton County Genealogical Society.

Currently under development for the Spring of 2023, participating DCGS members will be trained in oral history interview techniques in a workshop; founding and long-time members of DCGS will be interviewed; and transcriptions of interviews will be archived in Special Collections.

DCGS members will:

1. Gain a wider application of oral history in their research programs (such as interviewing younger family members, thus stimulating wider interest in shared family history).
2. Gain deeper understanding and appreciation of DCGS’s original mission.
3. Provide support to local history’s place within Emily Fowler Special Collections’ mission.

Details will be announced later this fall. Stay tuned!

Image: Selena Wilke, Wikimedia Commons, public domain.

COMING EVENTS

AROUND NTX

9/13—Genealogy Research from Home, Chuck Voellinger, Emily Fowler Library (IP)

9/14—[The 1950 Census UP-DATED Tips & Tricks](#), Mic Barnette, Collin County Genealogical Society (H)

9/27—[Your Story: Hand off Your Family History](#), Arlington Public Library (IP)

10/21—2022 Genealogy LockIn, Emily Fowler Library (IP & V) Reg. required.

2022-23

DCGS OFFICERS

President

Robert L. Lane

Vice President

Beth Leggieri

Secretary

Sandra Robertson

Treasurer

Marian Carroll

Librarian

Laura Douglas

Membership

Monica Wentholt

Webmaster

Chris Strauss

Hospitality

Eileen & John O'Neill

Newsletter

Nancy Gilbride Casey

NGS Delegate

Robert L. Lane

TXSGS Representative—
Emily Coffman Richardson

DCGS MAY 12, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

President Joe Spears called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. He welcomed everyone and called on Donna Spears, Membership Chairperson, to introduce visitors: Bill Cangelosi, John Linden, and Rya Nichols. There were 20 members present at Emily Fowler Public Library.

The motion to approve the April 14, 2022 Minutes as published in the Newsletter was made by John Windsor and seconded by Walta Evans. Motion passed. There were no questions about the Treasurer's Report as published in the Newsletter, and it was filed for audit.

Old Business—There was no Old Business.

New Business—President Spears read the slate of officers for a two-year term from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2024 as nominated by the Board: President: Bob Lane; Vice President: Beth Leggieri; Secretary: Sandra Robertson; Treasurer: Marian Carroll; Librarian: Laura Douglas. He then asked for nominations from the floor. Being no nominations from the floor, President Spears asked for a motion to accept the slate of officers by acclamation. Linda Touraine made the motion which was seconded by Donna Spears. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

- President Spears thanked the Lanes for tonight's special hospitality.
- The transition Board meeting will be Thursday, May 19 at 1:00 pm. at Emily Fowler Library.
- The DCGS was represented at the Family History Fair on April 30 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.
- Summer history and genealogy programs are listed in the Library Newsletter and on their website. We are encouraged to share information about the programs on our social media accounts
- Our next meeting will be September 8, 2022.

Program—Beth Leggieri introduced members who shared stories of new discoveries and brick walls.

Charles Robertson made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. and was seconded by Terry Brantley.

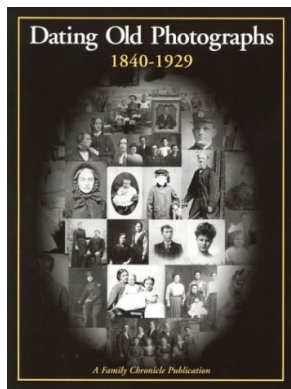
*—Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Robertson, Secretary*



ID OLD PHOTOS? THESE BOOKS CAN HELP

Plagued by photos of people you don't know? Sifted through old Polaroids with no identification on them? You're wondering, "Who are these people?"

Pull down those dusty boxes and figure out who's who in those old snapshots. The **Denton Public Library** can help with books on sleuthing out your ancestors in photographs.



Begin with ***The Dead Horse Investigation: Forensic Photo Analysis for Everyone*** (Colleen Fitzpatrick, 2008), a handy how-to guide on identifying old photos using forensic science techniques. Instructional chapters, case studies and stories illustrate a range of identifica-

tion methods. Identify everything from Daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, and tintypes, to modern snapshots. Find clues from physical characteristics and the contents of an image.

Dating Old Photographs 1840-1929 (Family Chronicle, 2000), features 650+ photographic reproductions to compare and contrast clothing and hair fashion, the subject's poses and

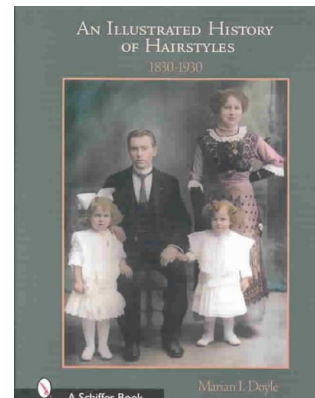
the backgrounds, etc., to key in on the date. ***More Dating Old Photographs*** (Halvor Moorshead, 2004), adds 120 more pages of unusual, hand-colored photos for comparison.

Study clothing, hairstyles, props, photographer's name, etc., to hone in on who's who,

in ***Family Photo Detective*** (Maureen Taylor, 2013), ***Fashionable Folks: Bonnets and Hats 1840-1900*** (Taylor, 2011), and ***An Illustrated History of Hairstyles 1830-1930*** (Marian I. Doyle, 2003).

Finally, ***Uncovering Your Ancestry Through Family Photographs*** (Taylor, 2000), helps you tell the stories behind your photos, offers tips to locate new family photographs, and provides worksheets to help expand the ancestral knowledge your photos provide. —Nancy Gilbride Casey

Don't forget to check out the Library's [Legacy Lab](#) for all your photo preservation needs.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance May 2022		\$3,069.23
Deposits		
2022-23 Dues 5/23/22	\$280.00	
2022-23 Dues 7/11/22	\$20.00	
Total Deposits		\$300.00
Disbursements		
Replacement Check—Staley	\$100.00	
National Genealogical Society Dues	\$50.00	
Total Disbursements		\$150.00
Balance August 10, 2022		\$3,219.23
—Respectfully Submitted, Marian Carroll, Treasurer		

“Pull down those dusty boxes & figure out who's who in those old snapshots.”

CONGRATULATIONS!

Sincere congratulations to Denton Public Library Special Collection's own **Chuck Voellinger** on receiving the 2022 Texas Library Association's Branding Iron Award for his video series, *History Moments*. These brief, quirky videos feature Chuck introducing Denton historic landmarks, locations, objects, or important Dentonites, and are featured on their own *Facebook* page. Thanks, Chuck, for making Denton history more accessible to everyone. If you haven't seen these videos, check out the *History Moments Facebook page*.

ABOUT DCGS...

The Denton County Genealogical Society meets at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, on the second Thursday of the month (September-November, January-May). Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., program at 7 p.m. Programs may be in-person, virtual or hybrid (both in-person & via Zoom).

DCGS is a proud member of the National Genealogical Society and the Texas State Genealogical Society, and actively supports the Denton Public Library—a Family Search Affiliate Library.



UNLOCK YOUR PAST WITH TXSGS LIVE!

Denton County Genealogical Society is a proud partner of the state-wide organization, Texas State Genealogical Society. And one of the best benefits they provide is just on the horizon: **TxSGS Live! Unlock Your Past**, Friday and Saturday, November 4-5.

TxSGS Live! Featuring 24 speakers from across Texas & the U.S., presenting 10 live presentations and 32 prerecorded ones. Learn about DNA, ethnic research (African American, Hispanic, German, etc.), methodology, problem solving, records, repositories and skill building, and more. Best of all, session recordings will be *accessible through February 6, 2023*.

As a bonus, DCGS members who register for TxSGS Live! by Sept. 30th, with the special code **DCGS22**, **will earn \$10 for DCGS!** **Register TODAY!**

Virtual!

2022 TxSGS Family History Conference

10 Presentations with Q&A by Speakers
32 On-Demand Recordings
Bonus Recordings and More!

Accessible for replay through February 6, 2023

2022 TxSGS Family History Conference
www.TxSGS.org #txsgs

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