

# DCGS News

## EXPANDING HORIZONS FOCUS OF OCT. MEETING

Most genealogy hobbyists utilize their local genealogy society as a place to go for education. However, even before the Zoom phenomenon, there were learning opportunities offered by regional, state, national, and international genealogical societies.

**Expanding Horizons**, to be presented by DCGS member and TxSGS Secretary **Emily Coffman Richardson** at the October 13th DCGS meeting, will re-introduce participants to the multitude of learning experiences uniquely designed and available to both the hobbyist and the professional genealogist alike. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., with program at 7 p.m.

- ◇ From books and journals available at your local library to researching at the Denton Courthouse, **explore** at-home learning, including podcasts, webinars, and more.
- ◇ **Learn** about DFW-area, regional, and statewide genealogical societies, as well as the benefits of Texas State Genealogical Society (TxSGS) membership.
- ◇ **Consider** resources from other states, national organizations like the National Genealogical Society, and RootsTech.
- ◇ **Branch out** to international education options and genealogical academies.

Each participant will receive a **5-page handout** chock full of resources. Come, listen and think about *your* next educational experience in genealogy.

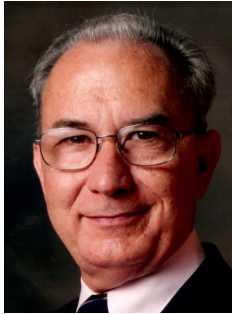


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Photo: Jones Photographic Studios of America, Studio No. 1, Denton, Texas. Fireworks at the Denton County Courthouse Celebrating the End of World War I, photograph, 1918 - <<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/61103/121474-denton%3dcourthouse>> accessed June 1, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History <<https://texashistory.unt.edu>> crediting Denton Public Library.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



publications have been of significant assistance to me.

The first is ***Understanding Colonial Handwriting*** by Harriet Stryker-Rodda (Baltimore : Genealogical Publishing Company, 1986). At 27 pages, it provides much more assistance than its size implies. It includes examples of handwritten letters and shows variants common in English and American styles. Individual letters of the alphabet are shown, as well

Genealogy work is fun, exciting, and provides great satisfaction upon finding new information to share. But first, I must be able to both find and *read* pertinent material. Sometimes that material is handwritten. How handwriting has changed over time! Two

as demonstrations in text phrases. It also displays the changes in handwriting from the 16th through 19th centuries.

The second book, ***Reading Early American Handwriting*** by Kip Sperry (Genealogical Publishing : Baltimore, 1998), is much more extensive at 289 pages. Chapters discuss guidelines for reading old documents, abbreviations and contractions, numbers and roman numerals, sample alphabets and handwriting styles, as well as common abbreviations of names and terms.

Be glad you are not school age now without writing skills instruction!

Both books are available in the Denton Public Library for us to enjoy.

—Robert L. Lane

*presidentdcgs@gmail.com*

## ANCESTOR Q OF THE MONTH: UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS

September's **Ancestor Question of the Month** focused on unusual occupations. We had some fun answers. Take a look.

**Sandra Robertson**—"My Great Grandfather Jesse Bell Moore was mustered out of the 142nd Pennsylvania Infantry, company I as a corporal on June 20, 1865. In October, 1865, he was listed as **Peddler 2nd Class** at Cranberry Township in Venenago County, Pennsylvania. The post office was at Seneca. He paid \$14.58 to the state as an excise tax. I am unsure what products a peddler 2nd Class was authorized to sell, but possibly either tobacco or liquor."

**Jane Sanzone**—"My ancestor, David Chandler, was elected town 'hog reeve' or 'hog constable' in 1733 in the town of Andover, Massachusetts. A hog reeve was charged with watching for and rounding up loose hogs before they could



wander onto a resident's property and cause damage. Damage caused by loose hogs was a serious problem at a time when people grew their own food and relied on successful growing season for their livelihoods! The hog reeve also assessed damage caused by stray hogs and reported this information at the town meetings. Owners would be charged a fine for loose hogs and have to pay for damages. It's a little like today's animal control services."

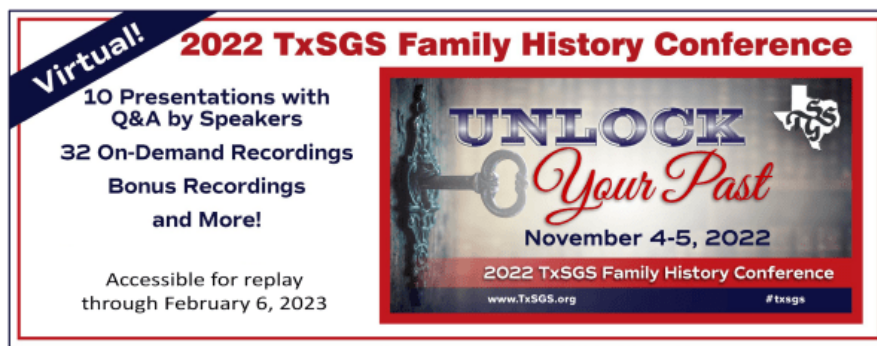
**Emily Richardson Coffman**—"We have multiple John Kings in our tree. One we call John "**Wheelwright**" King, and another we call John "**Tanner**" King, in order to distinguish one from another. Neither is unusual - but it worked for knowing which one we were researching. "

**Charles Robertson**—"My father's first cousin was David Marshall Stewart, who received a library science degree from Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee in 1939. He was a Tennessee supervisor for the WPA (Works Progress Administration) library service projects from 1940-1942. After service in the U.S. Navy Pacific Theater as Lieutenant Commander during World War II from 1942-1946, Marshall served as a **CIA librarian** from 1948-1960. He ended his career as chief librarian of the Public Library of Nashville and Davidson County from 1960-1985."

**Nancy Gilbride Casey**—"My great granduncle Dominick McAndrew earned money as a **pickslate** in the anthracite coal mines of Scranton, Pennsylvania—at the tender age of 11! Picking slate was a boy's entry into the coal mines; some began as early as age 8 picking out the slate and other impurities in the coal brought up from the mine. Dominick was one of many of my ancestors who worked the coal mines in Pennsylvania."



Click [here](#) to answer October's Ancestor Q of the Month.



Ten nationally-known speakers kick off the best in genealogy learning at the 2022 TxSGS Family History Conference. During ***TxSGS Live!***, you'll learn from J. Mark Lowe, FUGA; Deborah A. Abbott, PhD; Diane L. Richard; Colleen Robledo Greene, MLIS; Debra Dudek; Jean Wilcox Hibben; Kevin Klaus; Renate Yarborough Sanders; Lori Thornton; and Bernard Meisner. Watch on November 4-5, or on-demand through February 6, 2023.

Continue learning with another 32 sessions that bring you cutting-edge genealogy topics to help you climb your family tree! With tracks on DNA, ethnic research, methodology and problem solving, records and resources, and skill building, the TxSGS Family History Conference is filled to the brim with the tips and techniques you've come to expect from a TxSGS event.

All topics are available on-demand through February 6, 2023. Check out the [topics and speakers](#) – the answer you need to solve your research challenge might be just a click away!

Bonus sessions and the Virtual Expo Hall info is coming soon.

*Choose from 3 exciting packages!*

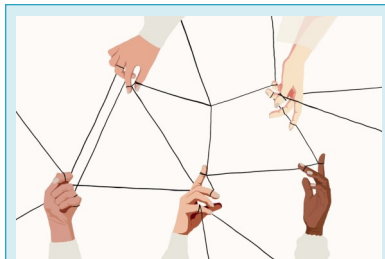
- ◇ **All-in-One:** All live sessions plus all 32 playback sessions; 42 sessions in all!
- ◇ **Standard Package:** All live sessions plus your choice of 15 sessions; 25 sessions in all!
- ◇ **Lite Package:** All live sessions plus your choice of 5 sessions; 15 sessions in all!

*Packages include:*

- ◇ A selection of over 32 on-demand presentations viewable November 9, 2022-February 6, 2023. Quantity available depends on package level.
- ◇ Access to all Bonus sessions (to be announced soon)
- ◇ Access to the Virtual Expo Hall
- ◇ Digital Syllabus

See <https://www.txsgs.org/2022-txsgs-family-history-conference/> to learn more about speakers, topics, and conference packages.

[Online registration available through Oct. 31st](#); after Nov. 1st registration is through Playback.txsgs.org. Don't miss out on this fabulous learning opportunity. **REGISTER TODAY!**



## MEMBERCONNECT

Congrats to **Emily Coffman Richardson**, who along with Tony Hanson, was honored by Texas State Genealogical Society in the September *Stirpes* Volunteer Spotlight. Emily and Tony coordinate the highly-successful Partner Society Leadership Forums, covering topics to strengthen societies across Texas. Well done, Emily!

**Monica Wenthold** shares, "Last week I received an email out of the blue through *Geneanet*. This cousin had been following my tree for a while and decided to contact me. After a few emails back and forth she proceeded to send me 600+ pages of research on one of my great grandmother's families! So far this has helped me connect several DNA matches to my tree." Incredible!

**Sandra Robertson** wonders, "What states are you searching for ancestors? We could learn which members have which states in common." Good point, Sandra! Let's think how we can accomplish this.

**Beth Leggieri** shares the website the [National Museum of Civil War Medicine](#). "I've found a treasure trove. Streams of Zoomed lectures, interviews with authors, etc. Highly recommend to anyone dealing with the Civil War."

Image by [rawpixel.com](#)

## COMING EVENTS

10/21—**2022 Genealogy Lock-In**, Emily Fowler Library (IP & V) [Reg. required.](#)

10/22—**Leaping the Pond: Online-Research in Great Britain**, Paul Milner (IP & V), [Reg. required.](#) \$

10/28—**Introduction to the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center**, Texas State Library & Archives (V). [Reg. required.](#)

11/3—**Discussion of Family History Month** @ the Clayton-Genealogy Face2Face, Clayton Library Friends (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 Wenthold

##### Webmaster

Chris Strauss

##### Hospitality

Eileen O'Neill &

John Windsor

##### Newsletter

Nancy Gilbride Casey

##### NGS Delegate

Robert L. Lane

##### TXSGS Representative

Emily Coffman Richardson

## DCGS SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

President Bob Lane called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. He welcomed everyone. Monica Wenthold, Membership Chair, welcomed new member Dennis Killmer. There were 19 persons in attendance at Emily Fowler Library and five persons on Zoom. Marian Carroll, Treasurer presented the financial report as presented in the Newsletter. There were no questions, and it was filed for audit. Sandra Robertson, Secretary, asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2022, meeting as published in the Newsletter. Beth Leggieri made a motion which was seconded by John Windsor to accept them. There were no corrections, so the Minutes stand approved as published. John Windsor, Social/Hospitality, announced that refreshments were available. For future meetings, one person per meeting will be asked by email to assist in providing refreshments.

Librarian Laura Douglas announced that the Genealogy Lock-In at the Emily Fowler Library will be on October 21, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Recorded videos and in-person assistance for the public will be available. She asked for volunteers to assist with the event. President Lane read a thank-you letter to the DCGS from the Emily Fowler Library for support of the TexTreasures Grant project for digitizing historic issues of the *Denton Record-Chronicle* available on the Portal of Texas History. They are key word searchable.

Newsletter editor Nancy Gilbride Casey asked members to send suggestions for future articles to her and to answer the survey questions in the Newsletter. Your answers could be featured in the next issue of the Newsletter!

Vice President Beth Leggieri said that anyone registering for the virtual TxSGS Family History Conference entitled Unlock your Past on November 4-5, 2022, using the DCGS code will bring \$10.00 back to the DCGS. With her announcement that the April 13, 2023, program will be "Alternatives to the 1890 Census, "the 2022-2023 DCGS programs are set for the year.

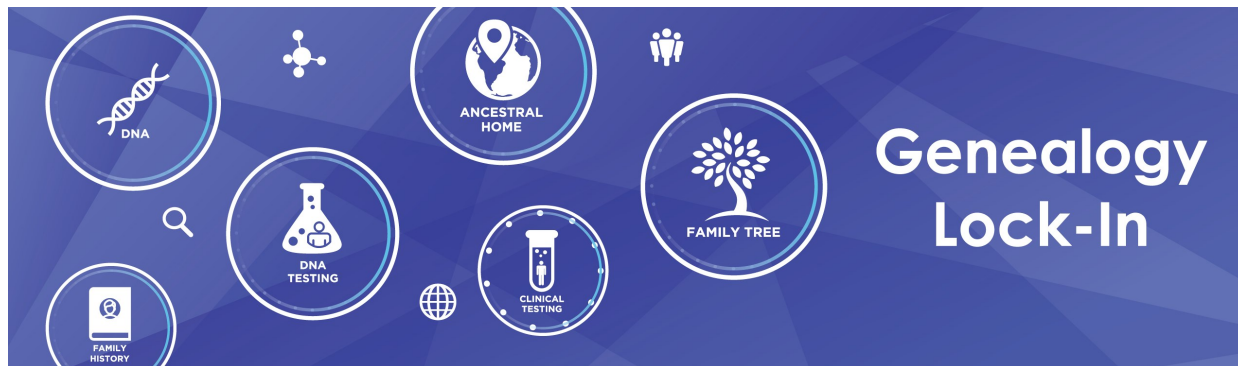
There was no Old Business or New Business. Under Announcements, the President noted that the next DCGS meeting is October 13, 2022. The program is "Expanding Horizons: Local to Int'l Genealogy Learning," presented by Emily Coffman Richardson. The Dallas Genealogical Society is hosting the hybrid seminar "Leaping the Pond: Online Research in Great Britain," on October 22, 2022. Joe Spears said that the Texas Veterans Hall of Fame located in the Golden Triangle Mall in Denton is sponsoring the American Veterans Traveling Tribute from November 10-13, 2022. For information see the website [www.txveterans.org/wall/](http://www.txveterans.org/wall/).

Beth Leggieri introduced the program which is presentations of the Ancestor Project. Presenters were Nancy Gilbride Casey, Melinda Culpon's project presented by Emily Richardson, Laura Douglas, Bob Lane, Beth Leggieri, Eileen O'Neill, Emily Richardson, Sandra Robertson, Jane Sanzone's project presented by Nancy Gilbride Casey, and Mary Tate. A program survey will be sent to members. Linda Lane made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Charles Robertson. Bob Lane read a quotation as the President's last word. The meeting was adjourned.

—Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Robertson, Secretary



## 2022 GENEALOGY LOCK-IN COMING OCT. 21ST



Denton Public Library and the Denton County Genealogical Society are partnering with other libraries and genealogy societies across Texas to host the Annual State-Wide Genealogy Lock-In on Friday, October 21st. Come and go, stay for the full day, or view the programs virtually. Eight recorded presentations will be streamed throughout the day. Refreshments will be served, but feel free to bring your own lunch. After 6 p.m. there will be individual research time, one-on-one help, and tours of Special Collections. If you register to view the presentations remotely you will receive a link to the event webpage about 24 hours before the event. Sponsored by the Genealogy Network of Texas.

The event is free, but registration is required for both virtual and in-person options at [https://library.cityofdenton.com/screens/sc\\_lockin.html](https://library.cityofdenton.com/screens/sc_lockin.html) or call (940) 349-8752.

### Schedule of Programs

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Deciphering Handwriting in Genealogical Records** Presented by Joseph B. Everett, MLS, AG, Family & Local History Librarian (BYU Library)

10:10 – 11:00 a.m. **Improve, Expand, and Enrich your Family Tree – With Tax Records!** Presented by Doug Waggoner, Family Historian (Sponsored by: Waco-McLennan County Library)

11:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. **Choosing Genealogy Services & Software** Presented by Tony Hanson, Family Historian

12:25 – 1:35 p.m. **Building and Researching Your Family Tree** Presented by Bill Buckner & Hannah Kubacak, Genealogy Center (Waco-McLennan County Library)

1:45 – 2:35 p.m. **Citing Sources Without Stressing**

**Out** Presented by Amy Johnson Crow, MLS, founder and lead educator at Generations Connection, host of *Generations Café* podcast.

2:45 – 3:35 p.m. **Making the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center Your Research Assistant** Presented by Curt B. Witcher, MLS, FUGA, IGSF Manager, The Genealogy Center Senior Manager, Special Collections, Allen County Public Library

3:45 – 5:00 p.m. **How to Approach and Solve Brick Wall Problems with DNA** Presented by Sara Allen, Senior Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Genealogy Center

5:10 – 6:00 p.m. **United States Migration Patterns: Why They Left, Where They Went, and the Stories They Left Behind** Presented by LeAnne McCamey, professional genealogist, publisher, author, and owner of American Genealogical Research Services

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. **Genealogist Lock-In:** Individual research time, tours of Special Collections, one-on-one research help.



### Help Needed for Annual Lock-In

We are looking for individuals who would like to help with the Lock-In on October 21. We need people to help monitor the classes and those who are interested in helping with one-on-one research questions. You do not have to stay for the entire day, times are flexible. Contact [Laura.Douglas@cityofdenton.com](mailto:Laura.Douglas@cityofdenton.com) or (940) 349-8749, if you would like to volunteer.

## ANCESTOR PROJECT MEETS SUCCESS

How do we tell the stories of our ancestors' lives when often all we have are names, dates, and places? Inspired by Ann Staley's spring program, "The Everyday Life of Our Ancestors," the DCGS 2022 Ancestor Project's aim was for participants to research and write about ancestors by studying the historical context of the places and time periods in which their ancestors lived.

Ten members took up this challenge and researched an event or anecdote from an ancestor's life, focusing on cultural and historical aspects of the time period and place. During this research phase, participants searched for and read relevant historical information. In the writing phase, participants told ancestors' stories within the context of characteristics and events of their time.

The Ancestor Project's success can be attributed to its thoughtful design and execution. Directions could be applied to virtually any genealogical research project, but the project parameters were narrow enough to be completed over the summer. One key component—the monthly workshop—offered the participants opportunities to share their experiences. Stories of rabbit holes, brick walls, and breakthroughs reminded us of our common experiences. Learning about the range of our ancestors' circumstances made us aware of the diverse backgrounds from which we descend. Project leaders' email prompts and encouragement helped to keep us on track and remind us that regardless of whether we finished writing our reports by the deadline or not, we would all succeed in learning lessons about this type of research.

The results of the project were presented by participants at the September 2022 meeting, and I feel confident in saying that we did, indeed, all learn a lot!

—Jane Sanzone

## 1890 CENSUS PROGRAM ADDED IN APRIL

**1890 Census Substitutes: Bridging the Gap**, will round out the 2022-23 DCGS programming season, April 13, 2023.

Created by **Bill Buckner** and Hannah Kubacak, and presented by Buckner—Genealogy Supervisor of the Waco-McLennan County Library's Genealogy Center—the presentation will look at the story behind the 1890 census. How are we to cross this abyss back through time from 1900 to 1880 and connect to our ancestors with any degree of certainty? A variety of substitutes—from reconstructed 1890 census to other types of enumerations—will be presented.



1921 scene of destruction of Commerce Building records, including the 1890

## ANCESTOR QUESTION OF THE MONTH

***What is your most precious heirloom?***

Click [HERE](#) to answer the October *Ancestor Q of the Month*

&

## MEMBERCONNECT

Click [HERE](#) to share your Kudos, Successes & Ideas

YOU may be featured in the November **DCGS News!**

## TREASURER'S REPORT



<b>Balance August 10, 2022</b>		\$3,219.23
<b>Deposits</b>		
Total Deposits		\$60.00
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Total Disbursements		\$0.00
<b>Balance September 26, 2022</b>		<b>\$3,279.23</b>
—Respectfully Submitted, Marian Carroll, Treasurer		

## ANCESTOR ACCUSED OF WITCHCRAFT? SEARCH NEW LINEAGE BOOK @ EMILY FOWLER

Among the more interesting lineage societies available to join today is the **Associated Daughters of Early American Witches** (ADEAW).

Formed in 1986, the ADEAW's purpose is:

- ◆ To search for and preserve the names of those accused of witchery in that portion of Colonial America now the United States of America;
- ◆ To locate the living female descendants of all witches who were accused in the American colonies prior to published records of same.

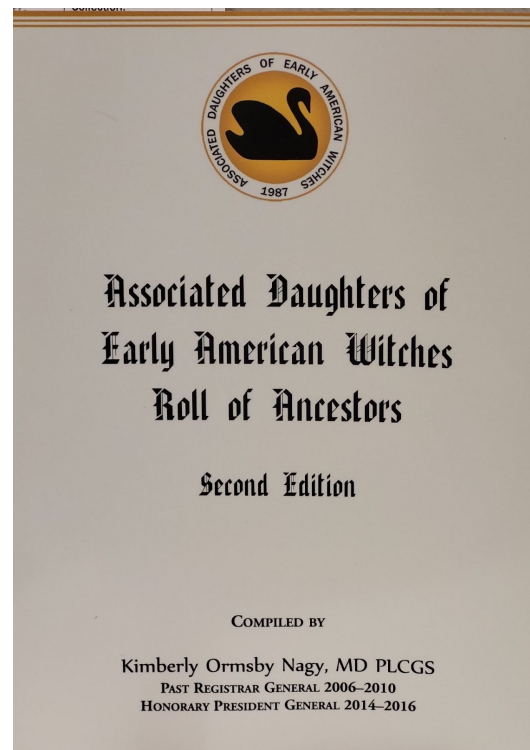
To date there are over 100 ancestors who have been used to join ADEAW, as well as over 200 women and men who have been accused, tried or convicted.

The society has just published the second edition of *Associated Daughters of Early American Witches Roll of Ancestors*, now available at the Emily Fowler Central Library.

Compiled by Kimberly Ormsby Nagy, previous registrar general and honorary president general of the society, the first book grew out of Ormsby Nagy's time as registrar general, during which she amassed a large amount of genealogical material on the various accused. Since then, more information, newly-researched ancestors, and her own research resulted in the addition of twenty-two new accused to add and 126 expanded entries for the book's second iteration.

In total, 339 ancestors are included in this edition's Biographical Data section. Each includes genealogical information on the accused, their parents and children (if available), as well as information about their accusation and punishment. The volume includes only those accused prior to 1700, in alignment with the society's membership criteria. The book also includes appendices covering Family Connections, some "Witches" after 1 January 1700, Nonexistent Ancestors, as well as suggestions for further reading, photographs, and a full-name index.

If you are a woman whose family lore includes tales of a witch ancestor, this volume may set you



on your way to determining if your lineage connects with one of these many falsely accused.

Prospective members must complete a web form to be invited to join, after which they complete a lineage application and provide documentation to the registrar general. Applications must be completed within two years of invitation.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Associated Daughters of Early American Witches [web-site](#)

[Downloadable list](#) of currently Qualifying Ancestors & Their Spouses (PDF)

**FREE** Webinar, **Verifying Descent from Salem's Accused Witches**, American Ancestors, 10/20, 2-3 p.m. CST. Register [HERE](#).

**FREE** Webinar, **The Salem Witchcraft Trials of 1692: History and Sources**, Allen County Public Library, 10/25, 2:30-3:30 p.m. CST. Register [HERE](#).

—Nancy Gilbride Casey

## 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.



## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA HONORS VETS

Many of our ancestors were veterans who served our nation. **Wreaths Across America**—began about 30 years ago—currently honors veterans from Alaska to the beaches of Normandy. Since 2007, the not-for-profit organization has helped families honor their loved ones by sending wreaths to cemeteries, monuments, and state houses across the country, and sponsoring annual National Remembrance ceremonies.



In 2021, 2.4 million veterans' wreaths were placed across the country at over 3,000 locations, and 2 million+ volunteers—adults and children—helped place wreaths.

In Denton County at least two DAR chapters support Wreaths Across America for veterans interred in the Old Hall Cemetery in Lewisville, the Flower Mound Cemetery in Flower Mound, the Chinn Chapel Cemetery in Copper Canyon, and the Old Shiloh Cemetery on FM1171 in Flower Mound. Other cemeteries in the county may be supported by other organizations.

If you are interested in volunteering in Denton County to place a wreath on Wreaths Day, Saturday, December 17, 2022, or if you want to sponsor a wreath for \$15, please visit: <https://www.wreathsassamerica.org/pages/163682>.

—Donna Spears

**Denton County  
Genealogical Society  
502 Oakland Street  
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[www.genealogydentontexas.org](http://www.genealogydentontexas.org)

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