

DCGS News

“THE BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND MAIL & STAGECOACH,” NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The Denton County Genealogical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, November 10, 2022. Refreshments and networking will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, and the meeting and program will begin at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

This month's speaker is **Robin Cole-Jett**, and her presentation is about the Butterfield Overland Stage and Mail service

The first transcontinental route from the Mississippi River to California was not by rail but rather, via a rutted, dirt road. Along this path ran the Butterfield Overland Mail and Stagecoach, which opened in 1858 and connected the East Coast to the West Coast by traversing the Indian Territory (today's Oklahoma) and Texas. In this presentation, Red River Historian, Robin Cole-Jett, relates the history of this short-lived transportation innovation through maps and photographs.

For over twenty years, Robin Cole-Jett has been exploring, documenting, and sharing the history of the Red River Valley, “where the South meets the West,” through her website, books, videos, articles, tours, presentations, and TV appearances. A graduate of ETSU, UNT, and TWU, she teaches at Tarrant County College and lives in Lewisville.

DCGS Monthly Meeting
The Butterfield Overland Stage & Mail
presented by Robin Cole-Jett
November 10 ~ 6:30 pm
Emily Fowler Central Library




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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:/62331/6m9tph:2494/m1/1/7?q=denon%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



A wagon. A very special wagon. A gift from my paternal grandfather sometime in early childhood, the exact date not known to me. But this was a gift I used often as a child.

My grandfather was a machinist by trade. He used objects known to him by his trade to make a wagon for me. Wheels made from pulleys, with tires made from a rubber hose. The main body was wooden, with sides and a handle as would be expected. With one knee on the platform and the other leg for propulsion, I spend many an hour guiding the wagon along the sidewalks by steering with the handle in a reverse position. Oddly, I find it difficult to fully express the amount of joy this wagon provided for me.

Alas, sometime before the end of my elementary school years, the wagon was nowhere to be found. Years later, my mother explained that as we lived in a small house, some possessions were stored in the basement of my maternal grandmother's house. Ultimately, after my grandmother passed, the house became the property of an aunt and uncle. In rather difficult times, the aunt and uncle sold items from the basement and my wagon was effectively lost forever.

My memories of playtime with this wagon have lasted much longer than any memory of any other toy from earlier years. It still brings much joy to remember those days with this wagon.

—Robert L. Lane,
presidentdcgs@gmail.com

MEMBER CONNECT: TIPS & RESOURCES

Here's a great tip from **Donna Spears**: "Most of us use the Search feature to hunt for ancestors. The results of a search offer Filters (or groupings) like Census & voter lists; Birth, marriage & death; Military and others. One of those filter choices is Pictures. The example indicates that there are 13 results for the ancestor who is the subject of the search. To see the list of those pictures and sample images, click the

Pictures filter in your Search results. Expect there to be duplication because the same photo or image has probably been attached to multiple family trees."

Nancy Gilbride Casey writes, "If you have a Union Civil War veteran, you may want to remember him by entering his information into the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Grave Database. The goal of the [SUVCW National Grave Registration Project](#), is to locate the final resting places of all Union Civil War Veterans. Search current entries [here](#); if not listed, complete a signup form, then add your soldier's info."



Filters	
> Census & voter lists	9,000+
> Birth, marriage & death	10,000+
> Military	4,960
> Immigration & emigration	1,244
> Newspapers & periodicals	509
> Pictures	13
> Stories, memories & histories	124
> Directories & member lists	30,000+
> Court, land, wills & financial	2,651
> Dictionaries, encyclopedias & reference	29
> Family trees	

OCTOBER 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc., October 13, 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.

Reports:

Monica Wenthold, **Membership** Chair, said there were no visitors. There were 21 members in attendance at Emily Fowler Library and four on Zoom for a total of 25 members.

The **Treasurer's** report was printed in the Newsletter. There were no corrections or additions, so it was filed for audit.

Sandra Robertson, **Secretary**, asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2022 meeting. The title of the exhibit sponsored by the Texas Veterans Wall of Fame was corrected to Travelling Vietnam Wall exhibit. Eileen O'Neill made a motion seconded by Beth Leggieri to approve the minutes with correction. Motion passed.

John Windsor, **Social/Hospitality**, acknowledged the food contributions and asked a volunteer to call Eileen O'Neill to assist with refreshments in November.

Librarian Laura Douglas said the Genealogy Lock-in on October 21 at Emily Fowler can still take volunteers to assist. Snacks will be provided.

Newsletter Editor Nancy Gilbride Casey hopes everyone is enjoying the newsletter. The question of the month is about a precious heirloom. Also, contact her if anyone wants to write an article for the newsletter.

There was no **Old Business**.

There was no **New Business**.

President Lane made **Announcements**:

- TxSGS Family History Conference is November 4-5, 2022, and presentations will be available until February 26, 2023. Two DCGS members are included in the program: Nancy Gilbride Casey will present "Jump Start: Practical Tips for Writing Family History." Dr. Emily Richardson will present "Preserving Your Memories for Generations to Come—FOREVER."
- The Fall Seminar by the Dallas Genealogical Society is "Leaping the Pond: Online Research in Great Britain," presented by Paul Milner. This hybrid seminar is October 22, 2022.
- The next DCGS meeting is November 10, 2022.

Vice President Beth Leggieri introduced Dr. Emily Richardson who presented "Expanding Horizons: Local to International Learning." She provided a helpful handout. During the discussion following the presentation, it was noted that Linda Lane has published an article in *STIRPES* and Nancy Gilbride Casey has an article in the current issue.

John Windsor made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Linda Lane. Bob Lane read a quotation as the President's last word. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

—Respectfully submitted, Sandra Robertson, Secretary

COMING EVENTS

11/12—**Family History Gift Ideas**—Emily Fowler Central Library, 10 a.m. (IP)

11/17—**Fold3**—Plano Public Library (IP & V) [Register](#)

11/18—**Introduction to Maps at Texas State Library & Archives** (V), [Register](#)

11/19—**Courthouse Research with John Sellers**, Clayton Library Friends Annual Meeting (V), [Register](#).

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

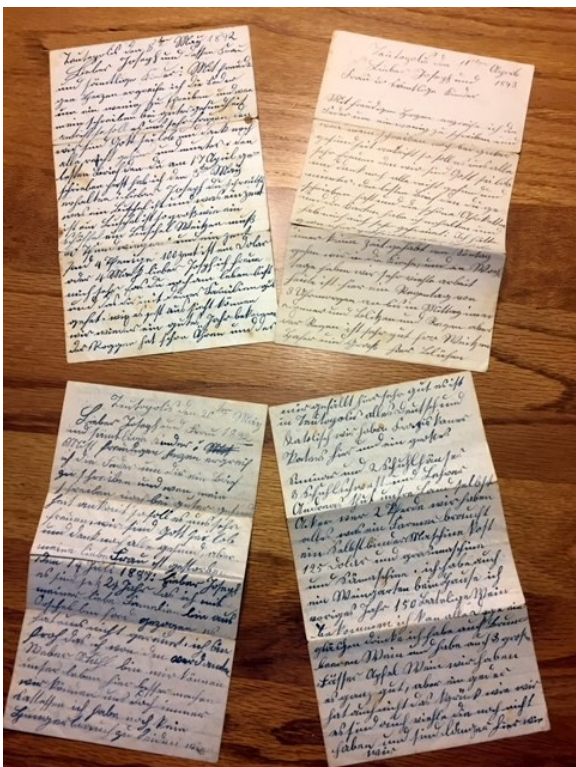
TXSGS Representative

Emily Coffman Richardson

Image by rawpixel.com

MEMBERS SHARE THEIR PRECIOUS HEIRLOOMS

“What is your most precious heirloom?” was the November Ancestor Q of the Month. Our members did not disappoint with their answers. Take a look.



Monica Wenthold shared, “In 1983 I went to Germany with my husband, father and uncle. We went to East Berlin to meet my grandmother's 3rd cousin. She gave us 3 letters (above) written by my 2x great grandfather Christoph Koerner to his cousin, Josef, her grandfather. The letters were from 1892 & 1893 and give a glimpse of his immigrant experiences.”

Vicki Whitfield wrote, “Because I'm the only quilter (as far as I know) on the maternal side of my family, I'd have to choose the two quilt tops made by my grandmother in the early 30's. They are friendship quilts with embroidered names of her friends and family. One has a block dated 1932, and the other has a block dated 1933.”

Melinda Culpon wrote her most precious heirloom (below) is a “washstand given to me by my grandmother, Nell Parish Smaihall, as a wedding present. It belonged to my great-grandmother Gussie Cornelia Burgess Parish, who also received it as a wedding present.”



Laura Douglas shared this sweet heirloom story, “I have a ring, and the story goes, my great-grandfather gave it my mother's mother when she went to London at the age of 16 to join a dance troupe, @1908. It has been worn so much that the pattern and inscription has almost been worn away, but engraved in the pattern of the ring is the word MITZPAH, which, loosely related from Hebrew, means ‘The Lord watch between thee and me while we are absent one from the other.’”

Walta Evans shared her most precious heirloom (next page, top) is “My great uncle Charles Monnier's WWI compass that he carried all through the war. It still works.”



“My grandmother's baptismal certificate is one of my most precious heirlooms,” shared **Nancy Gilbride Casey**. “Margaret Simonik is recorded in Slovak as ‘Margita from Moorewood,’ baptized on 8 June 1913, in Moorewood, Westmoreland, Pennsylvania. It was one of the last times that she was documented by her Slovak name, and the certificate captures her heritage as a first-generation American, the daughter of John and Anna Tatar Simonik, who emigrated in 1902 from Slovakia.”



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance September 26, 2022		\$3,279.23
Deposits		
Cox dues	\$20.00	
Schwartz dues	\$20.00	
Total Deposits		\$40.00
Disbursements		
Total Disbursements		\$0.00
Balance October 29, 2022		\$3,319.23
—Respectfully Submitted, Marian Carroll, Treasurer		

ANCESTOR QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What's a favorite holiday tradition handed down in your family?

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

MEMBERCONNECT

Have a great tip to share?

Want to give a shout out to a fellow DCGS Member?

Make an exciting discovery to share?

Let us know! Click [HERE](#) to share your news, in MemberConnect, and YOU may be featured in the **DCGS News!**

Note: Next DCGS News—January 2023.

EXPANDING HORIZONS—GOING OUT OF TOWN & INTO THE WORLD

Dr. Emily Richardson presented “Expanding Horizons: Local to International Learning” at the October DCGS meeting. She shared that her background in higher education helped focus her interest in conducting genealogical research and learning about the necessary resources. Genealogy is a mental process. Luckily for the DCGS members, Dr. Richardson shared the fruits of her efforts. A handy handout listed sources from local resources in Denton to national and international organizations offering articles and webinars. Helpful social media in-

cluding Facebook, blogs, and podcasts were discussed also.

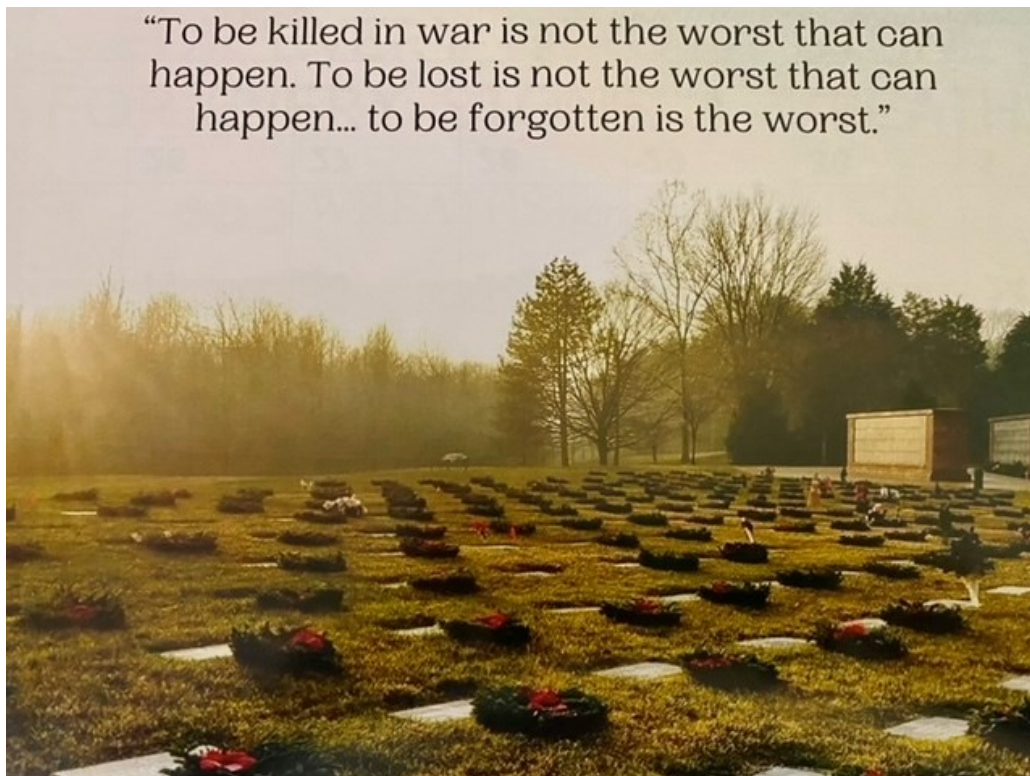
As we search for our ancestors, we may find our curiosity piqued and want to learn more places to search and more search strategies. Whether we like social media, podcasts, webinars or journals, Dr. Richardson gave us some possible sources. Hopefully we can find one new source that can be put to use in our genealogical work.

—Charles Robertson

REMEMBERING TEXAS VETERANS...FOREVER

In May 2022, Donna and I made a major research commitment to identify otherwise unknown Denton County veterans as part of the **Texas Veterans Hall of Fame** (TVHOF) **Remember Them Forever** project. TVHOF has photos of military gravestones, but only some veterans are represented.

I do a comparative analysis by cemetery using *Find A Grave* memorials to find men of fighting age who are not on the list of veterans known to TVHOF. I have proven over 400 more veterans in ten cemeteries, and their data is now published in the [TVHOF database](#). See back page.

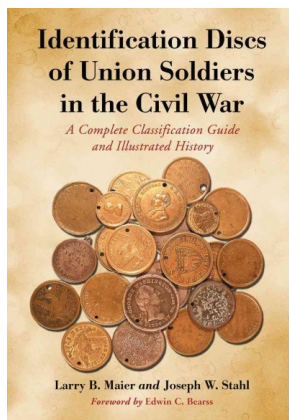


UNIFORMS, MEDALS & MORE: BOOKS TO EXPLORE YOUR FAMILY'S MILITARY HERITAGE

Among your family heirlooms, you might have a grandfather's Army uniform or medal, a Navy patch, or if you are really lucky, an old tintype of an ancestor in Civil War garb. Or maybe you're trying to determine what uniform your great uncle is wearing in that old photo.

How can you be sure you're identifying the uniform and its components correctly? Once more, the Emily Fowler Public Library comes to the rescue with books on understanding uniforms, medals, badges, insignia, and more.

Stepping back in time to our nation's founding, ***Uniforms of the American Revolution*** (John Mollo and Malcolm McGregor, 1975), describes 208 military uniforms, insignia, and personal weapons of British, American, German, French, and Native forces, as well as commentary on the Revolution and organization of armies. One reviewer called the book, "...by far most complete single book on the subject."



Moving forward in time to the Civil War, ***Identification Discs of Union Soldiers in the Civil War: A Complete Classification Guide and Illustrated History*** (Larry B. Maier & Joseph W. Stahl, 2008), delves into this precursor of today's dog tags, worn

or carried by Union soldiers. It covers descriptions and images, authentication of tags, as well as a survey of identification tags by state and style.

Naval uniforms worn during WWII are the focus of two books in the Library's collection: ***U.S. Navy Uniforms and Insignia 1940-42*** and ***U.S. Navy Uniforms and Insignia 1943-1946*** (Jeff Warner, both 2007). The books include over 800 previously-unpublished archival and contemporary photographs, documents, and dramatic reconstructions of U.S. Navy and Marine Corps

uniforms, including officer and enlisted dress uniforms and insignia, combat and fatigue uniforms, camouflage, field gear, experimental equipment, and more.

U.S. Army Medal, Badges & Insignia (Col. Frank C. Folster, 2019), includes how to identify, obtain, and display veteran's medals; full-color plates of all Army decorations, medals, ribbons, badges, and insignia with their criteria; a full-color chart of all U.S. Army awards and ribbons; pictures, criteria and specifications of all Army skill and specialty badges; and much more.



Uniforms worn in conflicts from Desert Storm through Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan are reviewed in ***Desert Uniforms, Patches and Insignia of the US Armed Forces*** (Kevin M. Born, 2016). Born brings his extensive knowledge of military history and over 50 years of military experience to bear while examining desert uniforms worn by Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard units, using original source documents and pieces from extensive public and private collections.

Finally, ***Military Photographs & How to Date Them*** (Neil Storey, 2009), focuses on United Kingdom military history from the 1870s-1940s, offering advice on identifying military uniforms, badges, insignia, medals, and other clues in military photos in personal collections. Storey—a professional military and social historian—illustrates cases with 230 black and white photos, representing a cross-section of all of the UK's services, corps, and line infantry.

—Nancy Gilbride Casey, DPL Volunteer

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.



Remembering Texas Veterans...Forever

Continued from page 6

After identifying a probable veteran on *Find A Grave*, I search for their military records on *Ancestry.com*. Donna joins the search for primarily Civil War veterans on *Fold3*, if I do not find adequate proof on *Ancestry*. While reviewing *Find A Grave*, memorials, I also confirm or add the links to the veteran's spouse and parents when possible.

This is time-consuming work but extremely rewarding. Diana Mason of TVHOF has inventoried over 30 Texas cemeteries and photographed their military gravestones, and continues to inventory and photograph more cemeteries. As her research partner, I hunt, find, and prove the service of veterans without military markers. We will Remember Them Forever.

To read the "History of Government Furnished Headstones and Markers," [click this link](#).

—Joe Spears

**Denton County
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www.genealogydentontexas.org

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