

DCGS News

ARI WILKINS PRESENTS “MYSTERIOUS RELATIVES” IN DCGS FEBRUARY EVENT



Many researchers encounter mysterious persons living in the household of a relative or perhaps 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.

Noted Dallas-area genealogist **Ari Wilkins** will discuss how to use the cluster research methodology to identify these unknown people

in “***Mysterious Relatives***,” at the Thursday, February 9th DCGS meeting. Attendees will meet in the Emily Fowler Central Library’s meeting room. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., with the program beginning at 7 p.m.

Ari Wilkins has been actively researching family history for over twenty years. She has spoken nationally at the National Genealogical Society, the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research, the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, the Texas Institute of Genealogical Research, the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh, RootsTech, and a multitude of state and local societies. She is also the coordinator of the African American course for the Texas Institute of Genealogical Research.

Ari has been a Library Associate at Dallas Public Library for the past fourteen years. She speaks on a multitude of genealogical subjects and specializes in African American research.

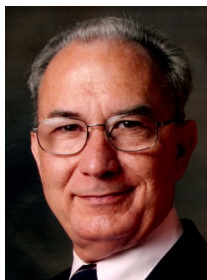


INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President’s Message 2
- MemberConnect..... 2
- Meeting Minutes 3
- Coming Events 3
- Treasurer’s Report 4
- “Locality Guide” Recap 4
- Library Corner/Events 5
- MemberConnect..... 6

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/metaphi2494/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



compilation of facts pertinent to your history!

There are a number of guides for doing this. One that I have found to be useful is *When I'm Gone* by Kathleen Fraser (The Boston Mills Press: Richmond Hills, Canada, 2009). This guide covers a lot of ground. But the portions specific to YOUR history, children, property, and records are of significant importance to future genealogical research. In fact, filling in the blanks provided for different topics keeps your references in a handy guide that makes an excellent resource for locating official documents later.

This guide suggests (among other topics), including important people in your history including family, friends, neighbors, and

All of us have faced blanks in the records of our ancestors. Through diligent research, sometimes we can fill in gaps while finding quite interesting information. Want to make things easier for YOUR descendants? Make a

employers. A separate chapter is devoted to children, other dependents, and guardians. The section regarding financial records can provide valuable information for later research, especially a listing of assets and liabilities.

Of course, property records can be especially important for some genealogical research. These records can point to specific pieces of property including ownership, rentals, leases, land surveys, and contracts.

A personal history section may disclose many significant events to others not commonly known about you. Information about multiple marriages, children by different spouses, foster children, and adoption proceedings are wonderful pieces of information. And, of course, family trees you may have compiled will be a treasured find.

If you have not done so already, consider purchasing or using a library reference guide for creating your record of personal history. Your descendants will certainly appreciate the effort.

—Robert L. Lane, President,
presidentdcgs@gmail.com



MEMBERCONNECT: TIPS & RESOURCES



If you've ever cringed when seeing the camera and key symbol while searching records on FamilySearch, despair no more! Did you know there are 2 quick ways to access these records *without* a trip to the FamilySearch Library (formerly the Family History Library)?

- ◆ Utilize the **FREE**, [FamilySearch Record Lookup Service](#)—request records from books, CDs, films, or digital images. Provide the specific call number, film number, or title of the record you seek via a convenient online form. You will receive an emailed image of the records, pages, etc., subject to some restrictions (such as for number of pages per book or images from a film, etc.). You must have a free FamilySearch account (or create one if you don't currently) to use this service.
- ◆ Use your local FamilySearch affiliate library—the Emily Fowler Central Library—to do the lookup for you. Simply email a request with what you need (include a link to the record collection page), along with the specifics of what you're searching for (name, date, info needed, etc.). The Special Collections staff will respond with the information via email. Contact them at genealogy@cityofdenton.com.

—Nancy Gilbride Casey
newsletterdcgs@gmail.com

JANUARY 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc.,

January 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

President Bob Lane called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. at the Emily Fowler Central Library and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. He welcomed everyone and called on Monica Wenthold, Membership Chair, to introduce visitors Joan Anderson, Greg Bell, Cathy Lawrence, Linda Jonas, and Stacie Briggs. Zoom visitor was the speaker Cari A. Taplin. There were 22 members present and five on Zoom. Total attendance was 33.

The Treasurer's Report was distributed in the DCGS News. There were no corrections or additions, and it was filed for audit. The Secretary's Minutes of November 10, 2022 were distributed in the DCGS News. There were no corrections or additions, and it was approved as distributed.

Reports by Board Members

Social/Hospitality—Eileen O'Neill thanked Kathi Coatney for bringing snacks. Eileen O'Neill and John Windsor also brought snacks. Carol Brantley is providing snacks for the February meeting.

Librarian

- Laura Douglas thanked the DCGS members for the contribution of the magazine *Internet Genealogy*, which is being used.
- The library has a new database—Heritage Hub—available in the library and on its website. Heritage Hub provides access to hundreds of years of obituaries and death notices from thousands of newspapers across the U.S.
- On January 28, the library is presenting a demonstration of HistoryGeo, a software service for linking old maps and land records to genealogical research.
- The addition of a puppet stage behind doors gives the meeting room a new configuration.

Newsletter Editor—Nancy Gilbride Casey presented a statement read by Bob Lane: "Last fall, member Sandra Robertson wondered where other DCGS members were researching so that perhaps she could collaborate. Wish no more Sandra! This month's Ancestor Question of the Month asks 'What are your top three research localities?' Submissions will be compiled and published in the February 2023 DCGS News. Be sure to answer this Month's Ancestor Question of the Month to let us know where you are currently researching. The link can be found in the January DCGS News which was emailed to members, available on DCGS's Facebook page, or on the DCGS website, or email newsletterdcs@gmail.com.

There was no **New Business**.

Announcements

- Our next meeting will be February 9, 2023.
- Beth Leggieri said answers to the Ancestor Question of the Month need to be submitted by January 19.
- Stacie Briggs presented a handout listing free genealogy classes for 2023 at the Denton Stake Center at 3000 Old North Road.

Program

Beth Leggieri introduced Cari A. Taplin, creator of GenealogyPANTS website, who presented "Unfamiliar Territory: Creating a Locality Guide for New Research Areas."

President Bob Lane asked if there were any further business. Being none, he adjourned the meeting at 8:15 with his last word from Family Tree Magazine.com.

—Respectfully submitted by Sandra Robertson, Secretary

COMING EVENTS

2/25—**How to Use Find a Grave and Other Cemetery Records to Further Your Research**, Stacie Briggs, Denton Stake Center, 3000 Old North Rd., Denton, 10:00 a.m. (IP)

2/28—**Digging Up Deeds**, Barbara Coakley, Allen County Public Library, 1:30 p.m. CST, FREE (V) [reg. required](#).

3/22—**PERSI 2.0: The New PERSI for Everyone**, Sunny Jane Morton, Legacy Family Tree webinars, 1:00 p.m. CST, FREE, (V) [reg required](#)

2022-23

DCGS OFFICERS

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Robert L. Lane

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Marian Carroll

Librarian

Laura Douglas

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John Windsor

Newsletter Editor

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NGS Delegate

Robert L. Lane

TXSGS Representative

Eimly Coffman Richardson



CARI A. TAPLIN OFFERS GREAT LOCALITY GUIDE TIPS

Cari A. Taplin, CG®, owner of [GenealogyPANTS](#) and one of the administrators of "The Genealogy Squad" Facebook group, provided an excellent presentation on locality guides and their usefulness to genealogy research at DCGS's January 12th meeting.



Creating a locality guide is a pre-research exercise that can assist in focusing a genealogy project for a new area. The guide can be of assistance throughout the research process and afterward as a quick reference for available information. Although a guide can be created on paper, keeping the guide as an electronic document enables the researcher to quickly link to information found on the internet.

Cari presented her locality guide for Wood County, Ohio, the location of her great-grandparent's home. She showed what she includes in the four major parts of a guide: Historical Background, Geography, Records, and Repositories. The handout that she provided shared links to many sites for information relevant to creating your own locality guide.

Here's a few consideration for each of the four sections:

Historical Background

Information on the origin of the county, such as: Was it an original county in the state or formed from another county? Did settlers come from a specific re-

gion, was it located on a migration trail, or was it influenced by Native American settlements? Were there any military installations or did any conflicts occur in the area? What types of industry and/or agriculture were prevalent?

Geography

Maps can provide an understanding of a location at a particular time and place. They can also clarify terrain and motivation for settlement. Different types of maps can provide links to the location of towns and townships, land and landowners, cemetery plots, and topographical analysis of the areas being suitable for settlement and/or farming.

Records

Performing a search in the FamilySearch catalog or wiki for the state and county enables a researcher to discover information beyond vital records for the location, including links to: archives, cemeteries, census, church records, court records, history, land and property, maps, naturalization, obituaries, probate records, and taxes, among others. Performing this type of search at all major research sites will provide similar information. Information for local and state genealogical societies can also be included here.

Repositories

Including info on the address, telephone, and operating hours for libraries, museums, and other repositories can save time when researching, creating reports, preparing for on-site visits, and providing an easy reference location for information that is often buried deep on websites.

As Cari said in her presentation, creating a locality guide is a personalized task. "The most important aspect of creating a locality guide is to make it a document that works for you."¹

—Melinda Culpon

¹ Culpon, Melinda, Personal Meeting Notes; Denton County Genealogical Society, Denton, Texas, 12 January 2023; Cari Taplin, "Creating a Locality Guide".

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance December 7, 2022		\$3,240.49
Deposits		
1/17/23 dues	\$20.00	
Total Deposits		\$20.00
Disbursements		
Cari Taplin—January Program	\$250.00	
Total Disbursements		\$250.00
Balance January 21, 2023		\$3,010.49
—Respectfully Submitted, Marian Carroll, Treasurer		

Ancestor Q of the Month

In honor of March being Women's History Month, our next Ancestor Q of the Month is "**Who is your favorite female ancestor?**" Answers (and photos if you have one) will be featured in the next *DCGS News*. **Answer the Ancestor Q of Month [CLICK HERE](#).**

LIBRARY CORNER: NEWS FROM THE EMILY FOWLER CENTRAL LIBRARY



Denton Public Library Offers New Digital Obituary Collection

The Denton Public Library is pleased to announce the immediate availability of its new digital obituary collection, HeritageHub. This new resource provides online access to hundreds of years of obituaries and death notices from thousands of newspapers across the United States. Also included are over 94 million records from the Social Security Death Index.

HeritageHub enables library customers to easily search and browse obituaries and death notices from 1704 through today. The scanned obituaries have been manually indexed to enhance search accuracy. In addition to using HeritageHub at workstations in the library, customers can access the collection from home by logging in with your library card at https://library.cityofdenton.com/screens/sc_resources.html, and clicking "Databases."

A helpful guide to using HeritageHub can be found at: <https://www.newsbank.com/sites/default/files/PDF/hhub-help-documentation.pdf>

This one-of-a-kind collection helps patrons and family historians uncover new family members and understand family relationships on a deeper level than ever before.

For more information about HeritageHub or other genealogy databases available at the Denton Public Library, contact Laura Douglas by calling (940) 349-8749 or emailing Laura.Douglas@cityofdenton.com.

UPCOMING GENEALOGY EVENTS AT THE DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Researching Texas Pioneers

Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m. (Fowler)

Do you have Texas roots and want to learn more about them? Celebrate **Texas Independence Month** with this class that will help you find your pioneer Texans and navigate the Spanish and Mexican records pre-dating the Republic.

My Family and Me Take Home Kit for Children

Saturday, April 1-Sunday, April 30 (Fowler)

This introductory kit will teach your child about the hobby of genealogy and how to research their family history. Forty-eight (48) kits will be available beginning April 1 on a first-come, first-served basis at Emily Fowler.

Ancestry and FamilySearch Databases

Friday, April 14, 10 a.m. (South Branch)

Two of the most popular and useful databases for genealogy research are Ancestry and Family Search. Join us to learn more about how to do efficient research and what each has to offer.

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.



MEMBERCONNECT: TIPS AND RESOURCES

Marian Carroll writes, “I am in possession of 2 books entitled *Atlas of Tazewell County, Illinois*. One was published in 1910 and the other in 1873. They both contain copious amounts of information about the people and places of Tazewell Co. If any one would like to explore them, contact me by email. I also have a *History of St. Mary's County Maryland 1634 to 1990*. I will bring these books to the February Meeting.” Thanks for sharing, Marian!

Do you have tips or resources to share? Be sure to let us know with our DCGS MemberConnect form [HERE](#).



**Denton County
Genealogical Society
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Denton, TX 76201**

www.genealogydentontexas.org

Find us on **Facebook**:
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DentonCountyGenealogicalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/DentonCountyGenealogicalSociety)

