

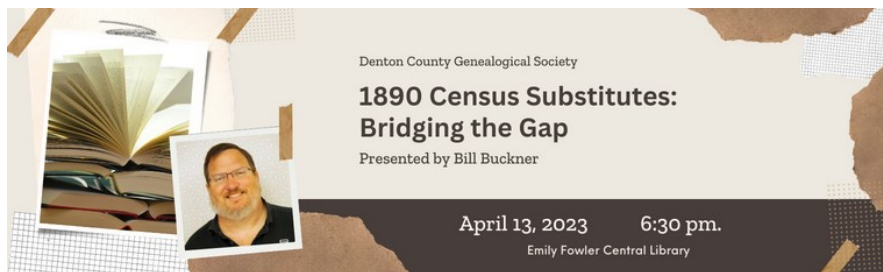
DCGS News

DISCOVER 1890 CENSUS SUBSTITUTES AT APRIL 13TH DCGS MEETING

The story of the 1890 Census begins like similar burned courthouse tales of gloom and doom. Yes, there was a fire and yes, it is true that the 1890 Census was destroyed, which left a 20-year gap in the decennial chain of census records. How are researchers to cross this abyss back through time from 1900 to 1880 and connect to our ancestors with any degree of certainty?

Find some answers at the Denton County Genealogical Society’s meeting, Thursday, April 13, 2023, in Bill Buckner's presentation, ***The 1890 Census Substitutes: Bridging the Gap*** (created by Buckner and Hannah Kubacak). Attendees will meet in the Emily Fowler Central Library’s meeting room. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., with the program at 7 p.m.

Learn gap-busting strategies such as using census substitutes, reconstructions and other enumerations. Learn which clues from familiar records can help you gain knowledge about your ancestors and bridge the gap.



Genealogy supervisor of the Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library for the past 24 years, Bill is committed to furthering information access, and the pursuit and sharing of knowledge. He initiated and co-hosts with the Central Texas Genealogical Society (CTGS) the popular annual Statewide Genealogy Lock-in. He also leads the McLennan County Cemetery Interest Group (MCCIG) to identify and inventory McLennan County cemeteries.

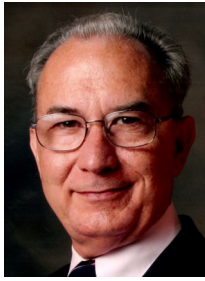
Bill has been a valued Texas State Genealogical Society volunteer for over a decade, serving as the TxSGS District 12/District H representative since 2009; a TxSGS book awards committee member since 2009, and its chair since 2010; and the TxSGS awards chair since 2014. He was named a 2021 Texas State Genealogical Society Fellow. He holds a BS from Southwestern University, and a MS in library science from UNT. Bill is a fourth-generation Texan and lives in Temple with his family.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The **FamilySearch Research Wiki** is a free, online genealogical guide containing links to genealogy databases, websites, research strategies, and genealogical guidance to assist in the search for your ancestors.

The wiki does not contain specific individuals but lists genealogical resources which may list an individual. When using the wiki, search for the place your ancestor was born, lived, and died. If your ancestor was born in Sussex, England, for example, type in Sussex in the search field. The Sussex, England page will contain links to online databases and topic pages regarding Swiss genealogical records.

There are many ways to search using the wiki. One

option is to browse by country. My maternal grandmother was born in Switzerland; I found the Switzerland link on the “search by country” option. The results include how-to guides, an introduction to Swiss research, tips for finding ancestors in the records, and on finding the town of origin. Other research tools include registers of surnames and a Swiss Dialect Genealogical Word List.

I find the “site map” at the bottom of the home page a good way to select a category of interest.

If you have not used the FamilySearch Research Wiki, try it [here](#). You may be surprised at the many information sources available for your genealogical research!

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



to our new members

Joan Anderson

Linda Jonas

Kathy Lawrence

John Linden

Doris Schneider

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

DCGS's membership year runs from June through May annually. Memberships for the 2023-24 year are due beginning in May.

Visitors are welcome for three visits without joining DCGS, and then will be asked to become a member.

Dues are \$20/individual and \$30/couple, payable by cash or check only. Dues will be accepted at the May 11th meeting, or mail your dues to:

Denton County Genealogical Society, c/o Emily Fowler Central Library
502 Oakland Street, Denton, Texas 76201

MARCH 2023 MEETING MINUTES

*Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc.,
March 9, 2023 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 asked Beth Leggieri to introduce Zoom visitors Lynna McClung and speaker Brian Rhinehart, and in-person visitors Greg Bell, Aprille Bell, Lisa Brown and Doris Schneider, who joined the DCGS. Attendance included 29 members (26 in-person/3 on Zoom), 5 visitors (4 in-person/1 on Zoom), and the presenter (on Zoom), for a total attendance of 35.

The Secretary's Minutes of February 9, 2023 meeting were distributed in the *DCGS News*. There were no corrections or additions, and it was approved as distributed. The Treasurer's Report was distributed in the *DCGS News*. There were no corrections or additions, and it was filed for audit.

Reports by Board Members

Social/Hospitality—Eileen O'Neill acknowledged the food contributions and thanked members for their cash donations. A sign-up sheet for snacks for the April and May meeting was provided.

Librarian—Laura Douglas-Kamman noted the

new tables on wheels which facilitates the setting up of the meeting room. She invited all to visit Special Collections. Some items from the collection are being reviewed in the *DCGS News*. Some of the books may be checked out to be used at home.

Announcements—Bob Lane
The Executive Committee met on March 8, 2023. A second meeting has been set for April 14, 2023 to discuss position descriptions of officers. A report will be made to the membership when the work is concluded.

Program Committee and Program Introduction

The next meeting of the DCGS will be on April 13, 2023. The May 11, 2023 meeting will feature members' stories of ancestors who served in the military. Nancy Gilbride Casey introduced Brian Rhinehart who presented "I Have a Civil War Ancestor...Now What?"

Following the program, the President adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m. with a last word by Wernher von Braun.



—Respectfully submitted by
Sandra Robertson, Secretary

Images by rawpixel.com



FAMILY HISTORY DISCOVERY DAY

Playing Hide & Seek With Our Ancestors

Saturday, April 15

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
3000 Old North Rd., Denton

8 a.m. opening—9 a.m. Keynote—9:30 a.m. Classes

Free—No registration—Door Prizes

Using Obituaries • Adoption, Sealed Records and Research •
Using FamilySearch Wiki and Catalog • Beginning and Intermediate Ancestry • Beginning and Intermediate Family Search • Using Google Search in Your Family History Research • Using Land Records to Break Down Those Brick Walls • Coming to Our Census

VOLUNTEERING FOR NEHGS RECORD TRANSCRIPTION PROJECTS

For the past few years, I have volunteered my time transcribing and indexing records for the [New England Historical Genealogical Society](#) (NEHGS)'s Database Volunteer Program. At the end of each year, the project coordinator sends volunteers a presentation that summarizes the group's progress and accomplishments.

Recently I received the summary for the 2021-2022 year and wanted to share a bit of the information with DCGS members to highlight the impact that contributing a few hours a month can have on the genealogy research community!

During 2021-2022, 77 active NEHGS volunteers (remote and onsite) logged 15,282 hours scanning, transcribing, and indexing records, which the coordinator estimated was equivalent to seven full-time staff years. During this one-year period, nine new databases went online, which included records from funeral homes, cemeteries, churches, and probate offices. Approximately four million new searchable names were added to the databases that are offered through NEHGS's [AmericanAncestors.org](#) website.

A project I worked diligently on throughout this period was the Wyeth Funeral Service Records 1904-1964 (Cambridge, Massachusetts), which added 70,000 new names. These records generally include names of the deceased, spouses, parents, ages, places of birth, last residence, death, and burial.

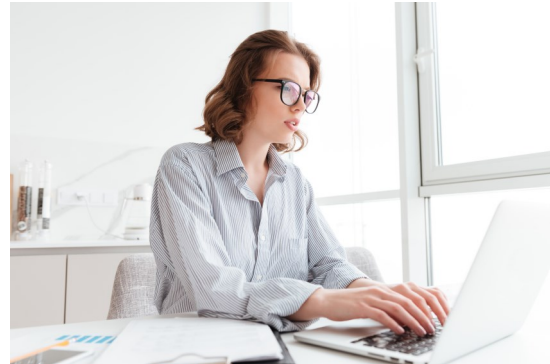


Image by rawpixel.com

Several new and ongoing database projects are already underway this year.

I am currently working on Portsmouth, NH School Records, a project that NEHGS is completing in partnership with Portsmouth, NH Athenaeum and Portsmouth Public Library. Forty-nine volumes are currently being indexed and there are around 512 left to index. Most of the records I have indexed to date include school attendance records from the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Database usage statistics as well as feedback from researchers continue to demonstrate the value of the Database Volunteer Program. In short, NEHGS concluded this year's presentation by stating that they absolutely could not do what they do without their volunteers who have a passion and commitment to genealogy!

A promotional poster for a virtual conference. The title is "Roots and Branches: Climbing Your Family Tree" in a cursive font. Below it, the dates "10-11 November 2023" are written in a bold, sans-serif font. The text "Texas State Genealogical Society FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE" is centered below the dates. On the left, there is a logo for TxSGS featuring a map of Texas with the letters "TxSGS" overlaid. On the right, there is a large, stylized tree growing out of an open book. At the bottom, the website "www.txsgs.org" and the hashtag "#txsgs" are listed. On the far right, there is a dark blue box with white text that says "Submission Deadline May 15, 2023" and "CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS" with an image of a hand holding a microphone.

TxSGS is looking for dynamic speakers who are passionate about their area of expertise to be presenters at the November 2023 TxSGS Family History Conference. Can you speak on methodology, record analysis, records/repositories, DNA research/techniques, basic genealogy, or other topics? Check out the guidelines at the [TxSGS Call for Presentations](#) webpage to learn requirements, compensation, timeline and other details. **Deadline to submit is May 15th.** Let's represent, Denton!

“CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR” MEETING INFORMATIVE

Thirty+ DCGS members and guests enjoyed the informative March 9th presentation “*I Have a Civil War Ancestor... Now What?*” with Brian Rhinehart, owner of Civil War Records. Rhinehart focused on the great genealogical value to be found in Civil War records.

Union Civil War records are grouped into four major categories: pension records, compiled military service records, carded medical records, and company’s record of events.

Rhinehart detailed the two types of **pensions**: invalid (sick/injured soldier) or dependent (claimed by soldier’s widow, minor, or parent). Here is where genealogical information is most likely to be found, as all claim details (such as service dates and places, and injuries sustained, etc.) had to be proven by the applicants. He shared examples of bible records, original letters, marriage certificates, affidavits by friends, neighbors, and family, and more, which he has found in pension files to prove relationships and events.

Rhinehart also discussed:

- ◆ **Compiled military service records** - These detail a soldier’s transfers, promotions/demotions, desertions, absences, etc. Enlistment papers or records of payments might also be found here.
- ◆ **Carded medical records** - These record soldier’s illnesses, injuries, or hospitalizations.
- ◆ **A company’s record of events** give a rundown of each company’s whereabouts. When paired with the compiled service record, it might show what battles a soldier may have fought, etc.

Rhinehart dispelled some misconceptions about what is available in Civil War records. For example, no, not all records are online; if one finds a pension index card online, that is just the “tip of the iceberg” and a file as small as two pages or perhaps as long as 500 (average size is 50-100 pages) could contain a veritable goldmine of information on a soldier and possibly his parents, wife, and children.

While Rhinehart’s presentation focused on Union records held at the National Archives, he was sensitive to the fact that some attendees had Confederate veteran ancestors as well, and shared how to obtain those records, usually held at the state level.

Learn more about Civil War pension files by reading Brian Rhinehart’s [blog](#) or viewing his [Facebook page](#). Rhinehart also offers a FREE lookup to see what might be available for your ancestor. Click [here](#) for more info.

—Nancy Gilbride Casey

COMING EVENTS

4/14—**Elusive Ancestors: Never Too Poor to Trace**, Elizabeth Shown Mills, Legacy Family Tree Webinars, 4 p.m., (V) FREE, [Reg. Req’d](#)

4/22—**Research and the Law: Legal Knowledge Needed to Find Your Ancestors**, Judy G. Russell (H), 10 a.m., \$, [Reg. Req’d](#)

4/27—**Native American Research: The Five Civilized Tribes**, Midwest Gen. Center, 2 p.m., (H) [Reg. Req’d](#)

2022-23

DCGS OFFICERS

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Beth Leggieri

Secretary

Sandra Robertson

Treasurer

Marian Carroll

Librarian

Laura Douglas

Membership

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Hospitality

Eileen O’Neill &

John Windsor

Newsletter Editor

Nancy Gilbride Casey

NGS Delegate

Robert L. Lane

TXSGS Representative

Emily Coffman

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE MALE ANCESTOR?

Beth Leggieri writes: “Research into my 3xGGF, Edward Walton Sims (1800-1875) of central Virginia, revealed that both his maternal and paternal lines valued education for both sons AND daughters, an anomaly during the early 18th and 19th centuries. From a burned county, Edward became my “favorite male ancestor” to research, the conduit to discoveries as meaningful as this educational heritage:

His aunt Phebe Walton’s “rare and important silk and linen needlework sampler” completed between 1782-1784 while in school at Cartersville, Buckingham County, Virginia was auctioned in 2014 by Bonham’s.

In 1808, Edward’s grandmother bestowed funds for his education.

Edward’s father-in-law willed his extensive library in 1821 “for the education support and maintenance of his wife and children” among whom was Ed-

ward’s wife, Polly Hobson.

Two of Edward and Polly’s daughters attended Buckingham Female College Institute (below), the first chartered college (1837) for Virginia women. Polly’s maternal uncle helped fund the college where the curriculum included trigonometry, Greek, and Latin (far exceeding the typical female academy).

And two of Edward’s granddaughters were among the instructors at the first Texas free public grade school established 1873 in Denison.”

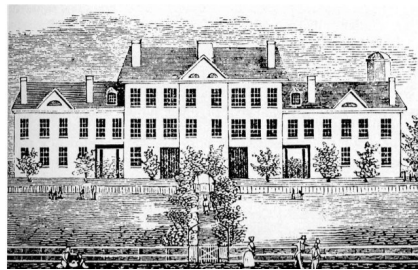


Image: Courtesy of the Library of Virginia: “Buckingham Female Ladies Institute,” *Southern Planter*, Volume 5, Number 7, 1 July 1845, p. 149.

Mary Tate writes her favorite is “William Pleasant Cotten, who was born in Jackson Co., Alabama, in 1829. He left Alabama when some of his family moved to Arkansas about 1850. He married Susan Ann Yeager in Ouachita Co., Arkansas in 1854. Three children, Peter James Raymond, John William Alexander, and Ruth Anne were born in Arkansas. After the Civil War, they moved to Texas where two more children, Charles K. and Melissa Tulula were born. Susan Anne died eight days after “Lula’s” birth, and W.P. was left with six children. He married Mrs. Ann A (Jones) Burns in Henderson Co., Texas on 30 Mar

1873. W.P. and A.A. later followed her children by her first marriage to the Pacific Northwest. They begged my grandparents to sell out in Texas and come to Washington. Ann Cotten probably died in Washington about 1892, as W.P. was back in Texas where he married a third time. He travelled from northeastern Alabama to the North West and back. One of his sons was a wagoner who transported goods across the land, and William Pleasant Cotten may have travelled with him. He died in 1902 in what was then Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma.

MORE FAVORITE MALE ANCESTORS...



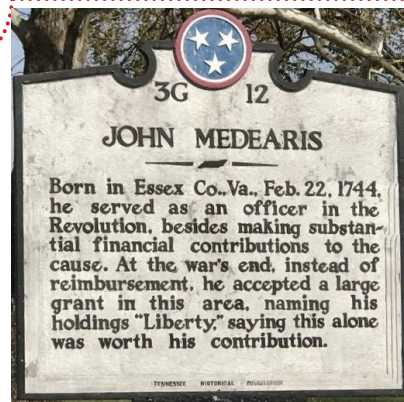
“My paternal grandfather Joseph J. Gilbride, Sr. was my favorite male ancestor,” writes **Nancy Gilbride Casey**. “My maternal grandfather was largely absent from my life, so Grandpa was the only one in this role for me. He was sweet and jolly, had a great belly laugh, and was a jokester as well, like a typical full-blooded Irishman. He was a railroad pipefitter in Cleveland’s Collinwood railyards, but I rarely saw him when he was in his work clothes. Rather, I recall his ever-present blue suspenders. He would always wear a dress hat in the winter as well, which made an impression. He was devoted to my grandmother, and had a sweet relationship with my mother, whom he called “Beesy” a nickname for Bridget, possibly bestowing honorary Irishness on her (she was Croatian/Slovak). He was a wonderful grandfather.”



From the Editor

Thank you to all DCGS members who contribute such great articles, ideas, tips, and tricks each month. *DCGS News* is a wonderful group effort! A very special thanks to Beth and Jim Leggieri for proofreading help each month. *DCGS News* would not happen without all of YOU!

—Nancy Gilbride Casey



Donna Spears writes: “Born in Virginia and raised in North Carolina, my four times great grandfather Major John T. Medearis (1744-1834) was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the North Carolina Line at 32. In 1777, he was promoted to captain and later to major. Medearis was George Washington’s third cousin, served with him at Valley Forge, and was a member of the Society of Cincinnatus, the most exclusive of all veterans organizations.

Medearis served as assistant deputy quartermaster general to Colonel Nicholas Long, tasked with supervising tentmaking, and acquiring clothes, supplies, and food for the troops. He spent large sums of his own money on the promise that he would be reimbursed. He was not. He finally received a North Carolina land grant of nearly 3,800 acres near Petersburg, Tennessee, which he named Liberty Valley.

In 1780 John Medearis married the widow Sarah Hicks Bell. They had two sons and two daughters. I am descended from their youngest child, Polly, who came to Texas about 1852. Read more about my ancestor at <https://honoringourpatriots.dar.org/patriots/john-medearis/>.”

EVEN MORE FAVORITE MALE ANCESTORS...

Emily Coffman Richardson writes: “My favorite male ancestor is my paternal 2nd great-grandfather, John Lewis Miller, who was born on 21 March 1842 and died on 19 October 1921.



John served in the Civil War, and his 100+ page pension is the reason I am fascinated by this man. He was injured during the war when he fell off a horse being exercised prior to a battle. He fought for 30 years to gain compensation for his injury.

John Lewis has a hard life. His first son was accidentally killed while cleaning his father's gun. He lost his wife at 34, after she gave birth to their second son, John Edward Miller, who died shortly after his mother. His oldest and only daughter Jennie had 7 children before her husband died a tragic early death. John Lewis stepped in and became the "father" to her children between 1908 and his death in 1921. John Lewis Miller, his daughter Jennie, and his grandchildren are pictured here.”



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance February 20, 2023		\$2,890.49
Deposits		
March 23, 2023 (Cash)	\$20.00	
March 23, 2023 (Checks)	\$40.00	
Total Deposits		\$60.00
Disbursements		
Brian Rhinehart March 2023 Program	\$150.00	
Deb Reed—name badges	\$15.78	
Total Disbursements		\$165.78
Balance March 23, 2023		\$2,784.71
—Respectfully Submitted, Marian Carroll, Treasurer		

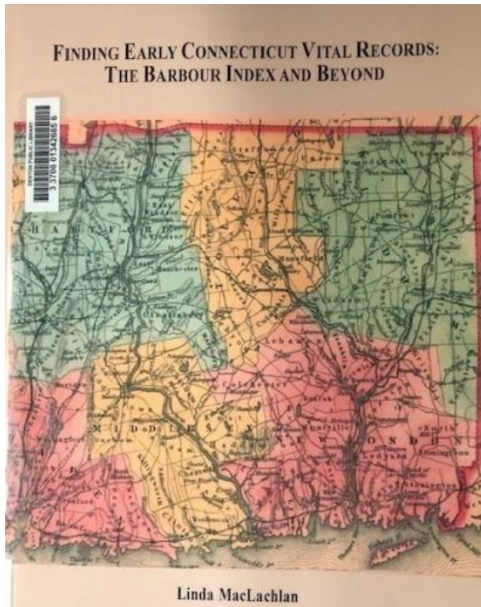
MEMBERCONNECT: TIPS & TRICKS

Donna Spears offers this timely tip:

“Did you know you can search Fold3® records by service number? Just use the filter and enter the service number to see records related to your service person. “

For more info, check out the Fold3 website [HERE](#).

CONNECTICUT RESOURCES FOR RESEARCHERS



If your ancestors called Connecticut home, then these books in the Denton Public Library Special Collections will be of particular interest.

The set, *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records (1994-2002)* by Lorraine Cook White and *Finding Early Connecticut Vital Records: The Barbour Index and Beyond*, by Linda MacLachlan (2019) each provide insight and access to one of the most important vital records collections available for the Constitution State. But what is the Barbour Collection?

The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records is an index to and transcription of most town vital records of births, marriages, and deaths from a town's inception to about 1850.¹ It was first created by Lucius B. Barbour, examiner of public records (1911-1934). He directed a project whereby town vital records were copied and abstracted. He presented the completed transcriptions to the Connecticut State Library where the info was typed onto printed forms, which were then cut, producing twelve small slips per sheet. Slips were alphabetized, typed a second time, and bound into separate volumes for each town. The slips were then interfiled, forming a statewide alphabetized index for most surviving town records.²

The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records is comprised of 55 volumes, each focused on a set of towns; for example, volume one contains records for Andover 1848-1879, Ashford 1710-1851, and Avon 1830-1851. DPL's Special Collections holds all 55 volumes. Coverage dates vary from town to town, and some town's records are more complete than others. Regardless, this resource is a must-use for any researcher with Connecticut roots.

New to the DPL bookshelves, *Finding Early Connecticut Vital Records: The Barbour Index and Beyond* identifies the original sources of millions of early Connecticut vital records abstracted in the Barbour Index. From an online review: "Finding Early Connecticut Records contains a town-by-town bibliography of both Barbour's actual sources for the information in his Index and all vital records not in the Barbour Index that may be in church and cemetery records, town records, and published sources. For each town we are given the Family History Library (FHL) film numbers for derivative and original sources that have been microfilmed, and other source information for those that have not. These town chapters also note (in boldface) discrepancies and other town records that Barbour did not abstract."³

Connecticut researchers can take advantage of these two excellent resources at the Emily Fowler Special Collections area.

For more information on the Barbour Collection, see <https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/vitalrecords/Barbour>.

—Nancy Gilbride Casey
Denton Public Library Volunteer

¹ Connecticut State Library (<https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/vitalrecords/Barbour> : 3 March 2023), "The Barbour Collection," rev. 2 Feb. 2023 11:52 a.m. .

² Lorraine Cook White, compiler, *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records: Vol. 1* (Baltimore, Md. : Genealogical Pub. Co., 1994), p. unnumbered.

³ grandmac, "Where all Connecticut research should start," book review, *Amazon* (<https://www.amazon.com/Finding-Early-Connecticut-Vital-Records/dp/o806358955> : 6 March 2023).

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.



ANCESTOR QUESTION OF THE MONTH



Did you attend a special summer family reunion or visit far-off relatives on a road trip in past summers?

Our question is ***“What are your special summer memories involving family or ancestors?”*** Answers will be featured in the next *DCGS News*.

Click [HERE](#) to complete the Ancestor Q of Month form, or [email](mailto:newsletterdcs@gmail.com) info to newsletterdcs@gmail.com.

Image by rawpixel.com

**Denton County
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502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201**

www.genealogydentontexas.org

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