

# DCGS News

## SHARE YOUR EUREKAS! IN MAY



DCGS May Meeting

**Serendipity, Unexpected Results  
& Eureka Moments**

Members Roundtable Discussion  
featuring stories about "Those Who Served"

**May 11 6:30 p.m.**  
Emily Fowler Central Library

In recognition of Memorial Day, the May Denton County Genealogical Society meeting will feature the popular annual show-and-tell, this year with the military theme: "Member Roundtable: Those Who Served."

Bring your stories, heirlooms, and important documents about your military ancestor. Be inspired as members recount the past year's moments of serendipity, finding unexpected results, and *eureka!* moments. All stories are welcome—military or otherwise.

This final meeting of the society's 2022-23 programming year will be held Thursday, May 11, 2023, at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street. In-person attendance only; there will be no virtual option. Refreshments and networking will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting and program at 7 p.m. The roundtable session will follow a brief annual business meeting and recognition of this year's new society members. Visitors are welcome.

If you wish to share at this meeting, please email Beth Leggieri to be placed on the roundtable agenda, at [vicepresidentdcs@gmail.com](mailto:vicepresidentdcs@gmail.com), no later than Tuesday, 5/9.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President's Message ..... 2
- Membership Info ..... 2
- Meeting Minutes ..... 3
- TX Inst Gen Research ..... 3
- "1890 Census" Recap ..... 4
- Coming Events ..... 5
- Fave Summer Memories.... 5
- More Summer Memories... 6
- More Memories ..... 7
- Treasurer's Report ..... 8
- MemberConnect..... 8
- Index TX Death Certs ..... 8
- Library Summer Events..... 9
- Programming Survey ..... 10

**Photo:** Jones Photographic Studios of America, Studio No. 1, Fireworks at the Denton County Courthouse Celebrating the End of World War I, 1918-; digital image, *The Portal to Texas History* (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph12494/m1/1/>; 2 May 2023); citing Denton Public Library.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### *Finding Genealogy in Unexpected Places*

I recently read a book I intended for pleasure: *The Oregon Trail, A New American Journey*, by Rinker Buck (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2015), [available at the Denton Public Library](#).

This was a fascinating story of a man and his brother who purchased a wagon and mules with the intent of making a journey from St. Joseph, Missouri to Portland, Oregon on the Oregon Trail. With excellent writing and interesting stories of people and places along the way, it was simply a delightful read.

While the entire book was captivating and absorbing, I was pleasantly surprised at the genealogical information included. For example, the author discusses Oregon-California Trail Association (OCTA) and references the Mormon Trail as well. Discussions with Randy Brown, an Oregon Trail historian, revealed his book *Graves and Sites on the Oregon*

*and California Trails*, which notes grave locations and important waypoints along the trail. His book gives exacting accounts of each grave and includes, when available, the buried pioneers' biographies. OCTA's Graves and Sites Committee has searched 1,800 miles from Nebraska to California over 30 years focused on marking, preserving, and recording the information. Mr. Brown also published *Inscriptions on Western Emigrant Trails* containing a meticulous recording of every known inscription on the western trails and a biographical digest of each pioneer carver. The listing of inscriptions on Independence Rock alone runs eighty-two pages.

If you have an ancestor who made this spectacular journey, I very much recommend this book for your enjoyment, as well as for its multiple references to valuable sources.

—Robert L. Lane, President,  
[presidentdcs@gmail.com](mailto:presidentdcs@gmail.com)

Learn more about the Oregon-California Trails Association on their [website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

## TIME TO RENEW



DCGS 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

# APRIL 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc.

April 13, 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 Membership Chair Monica Wenthold to introduce visitors Emily Alhadjabood, Heather Lynch and Greg Bell. There were 25 members present in person and 1 on Zoom and the guest speaker for a total of 30 persons.

The Secretary's Minutes of the March 9, 2023 meeting was 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*, and it was filed for audit.

## Reports by Board Members

**Social/Hospitality**—Eileen O'Neill acknowledged the food contributions by Joan Anderson, Cheryl Cypert, and Monica Wenthold.

**Librarian**—Laura Douglas-Kamman noted that there is no air conditioning as it is being worked on. The Library is presenting the program "Taking a Genealogy Trip: Ready, Set, Let's Go" by Patti Gillespie on April 22, 2023 at 10 a.m.

**Newsletter Editor**—Nancy Gilbride Casey said that Jane Sanzone's name as author was left off the article "Volunteering for NEHGS Record Transcription Projects" on page 4 of the April, 2023 *DCGS News*. The deadline for

answering the ancestor question of the month "What are your special summer memories involving family or ancestors?" is April 20. An updated member research localities handout is provided on the sign-in table. In May, members will be surveyed to determine the programming members want and need in 2023-24.

## Announcements—Bob Lane

- ♦ The DCGS Executive Board will meet on April 14 to continue discussions of job descriptions of officers.
- ♦ Family History Day is April 15 at 3000 Old North Road in Denton. DCGS member Linda Jonas is among the presenters. She is discussing land records.
- ♦ The next DCGS meeting is May 11, 2023. It will be a round robin with members sharing information about ancestors' military service.

**Program Introduction**—Vice President Beth Leggieri introduced Bill Buckner who presented "The 1890 Census Substitutes: Bridging the Gap." Beth said that Buckner helped create the Genealogy Lock-in concept for libraries. It started in 2011 in the state library with Skype. 2012 saw a repeat with the state library joined by Plano's, Houston's Clayton and Denton's Emily Fowler under then librarian and current DCGS member Kathy Strauss. Genealogy Lock-Ins continue to be popular events.

Following the program, the President adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m. with a last word by Louisa May Alcott.

—Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Robertson, Secretary

Image by rawpixel.com



**TIGR**

— TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY —

# TEXAS INSTITUTE

of GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

*To Enrich, Expand and Inspire.*

Join us Virtually – June 12-16, 2023

*Registration Opens 2 March 2023*

## 1890 CENSUS PROGRAM LENDS HOPE



*Bill Buckner presented tips to survive the 1890 census record loss to a packed house on April 13th. (Photo by Laura Douglas)*

As genealogists, we all, at one time or another, wish for the information from the 1890 Census. William D. Buckner, the speaker for our April speaker, gave a very informative talk on what can be a very dry subject. In short, he gave us instructions on how to do the "Fire Dance."

The 1890 Census was notable in so many ways. It was the only census ever to have a separate sheet for each family. It was the first to ask, "Whether a soldier, sailor, or marine during the civil war (U.S. or Conf.) or widow of such person." It was the first to ask a woman how many children she had and how many were still living. In the "Personal Description" box were added the choices of quadroom, octoroon and Japanese, reflecting the imminent Jim Crow era and the

anti-Asian sentiment prevalent in American society at that time. The census takers accomplished their task with amazing speed, counting more than 12.5 million families in 42 states and seven territories in six weeks.

This amazing information was compiled for the first time by an electric tabulating system. The final tabulations were done in five and one-half years—two and one-half years faster than the 1880 Census, saving the U.S. Government \$5 million. The company which manufactured this system became known as IBM in future years.

That all of this information was destroyed by fire is heart-breaking. Two fires, one in 1896 and a much worse one in 1921, destroyed much of the 1890 Census and some records from others. The final blow came in 1932 when government employees' questionable decision resulted in the final destruction of the original population schedules.

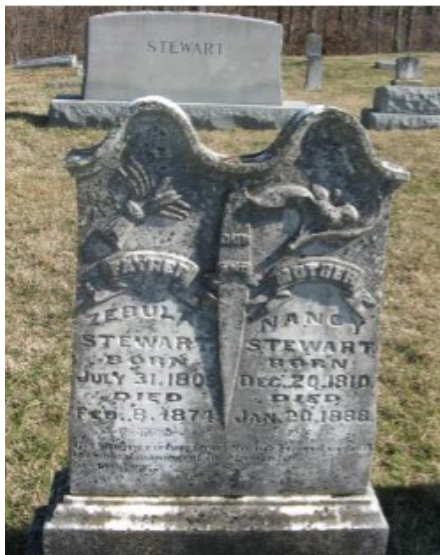
Don't despair! According to Mr. Buckner, fragments remain, and much has been reconstructed. Of the 62,979,766 people enumerated, only 6,160 records are still in existence. The surviving fragments consist of 1,233 pages or pieces; all of these are available on Ancestry, Fold3, and Family Search. A few counties have a census "short form" available; some schedules have survived, including special censuses taken by Oklahoma and Indian Territories. A Special Schedule of Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Widows survived, and is available on Ancestry and Family Search, as well as several print sources. A Special Census on Deaf Family Marriages and Hearing Relatives is available. School census records, some state census records, tax record, and voter registration rolls are all good substitutes. There is also an 1890 Census Substitute available on Ancestry, compiled of various sources.

Navigating your way through the ashes, over the obstacles, and around the pitfalls of the 1890 Census is what is known as the Fire Dance. It takes a little creative thinking and a little extra effort, but with the excellent information presented by Mr. Buckner, the steps of the Fire Dance are definitely clearer and easier.

—Kathi Coatney

## FAVORITE SUMMER FAMILY MEMORIES...

**Eileen O'Neill Windsor** writes, “My family went to Florida every summer to visit grandmother. Mom was an only child; grandmother had nine siblings, most of whom also lived in the area. We had scads of second cousins; we spent many afternoons visiting various relatives. We joked we were related to half of Jackson County. Fifty years later, my sisters and I went to Florida to meet a cousin we’d learned of through DNA and do research. She told everyone we were coming; word spread. We walked into the Marianna Public Library and were greeted with, ‘You must be Essie’s girls; I’m your cousin.’ ‘Me, too.’ ‘Me, too.’”



(Photo courtesy of Sandra Robertson)

**Sandra Robertson** writes, “One of our favorite vacations certainly added to our cemetery photo count. In June, 2021, we went to Charles’ home of Calloway County, Kentucky. We visited the Stewart Cemetery, the Trevathan Cemetery, Martin’s Chapel Cemetery, and the Hazel Cemetery, all of which have Charles’ relatives buried in them.

The Stewart Cemetery, established in 1852 on land owned by the

Stewart family for generations, is still an active cemetery. We saw several Stewart relatives’ graves, and seeing Zebulon and Nancy Stewart’s graves (Charles’ 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandparents) was particularly exciting. These two children of early Calloway County, Kentucky pioneers were married in 1830 and raised eleven children. Zebulon’s gravestone has a picture of wheat tied in a bundle— a sign of a long life. Nancy’s headstone has a rose, symbolizing love and often used for women and especially mothers. Every summer for years, a Stewart family reunion was held at the Stewart Cemetery, and Charles remembers going to some of them.”

## SUMMER EVENTS

6/2—**The True Story of Juneteenth—How Freedom Came to Texas & How We Celebrate**, Black Genealogy Experience, Facebook online event (V), FREE, more info click [HERE](#).

7/21—**Tracing Ancestors Through Revolutionary Mexico**, Legacy Family Tree Webinars, 1 p.m. (V) FREE, [Reg. Req'd](#)

**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 Editor

Nancy Gilbride Casey

#### NGS Delegate

Robert L. Lane

#### TXSGS Representative

Emily Coffman  
Richardson

## MORE SUMMER FAMILY MEMORIES...

**Emily Richardson** writes, “During the 1990's we would drive to Ohio or Michigan or Indiana and meet with the paternal cousins for a long weekend. Activities from scavenger hunts, family photo shows, softball and bridge went on throughout the weekend. It was the time the 1st cousins once removed got to meet their extended family. There was always lots of food and of course a pool to relax in. Those are precious memories for me, and some of the last pictures of my dad and mom with the cousins.”



*(Photo courtesy of Emily Richardson)*

**Laura Douglas** shares, “When I was growing up each year we would drive out to Young County in West Texas to attend my father's family reunion. What my child's mind remembers most is my mother would always pack snacks for the road which included saltines and block cheddar cheese sliced into cracker-sized slices. The reunion was held over Labor Day weekend so it was hot! It seemed that the cheese was always slightly melted and it was a perfect snack when paired with those saltines.”



*(Photo courtesy of Nancy Gilbride Casey)*

**Nancy Gilbride Casey** writes: “A favorite family summer memory is hosting barbecues at our house in Willowick, Ohio. Mom would invite all the aunts, uncles, and cousins, there would be tons of food, and an inevitable volleyball or badminton game pitting family vs. family or guys vs. gals, etc. I'm sure this photo of my Aunt Margaret Firestone (left) and my mom Ann Gilbride (right) was taken in our backyard, likely in the mid-late 1980s. Those two were always finding something to laugh about—they're probably chortling over a missed serve or someone's funny remark during one of those volleyball games. I miss those days.”

## EVEN MORE FAVORITE SUMMER MEMORIES

“The summer following our marriage, I visited my husband’s family in New York’s Hudson valley,” writes **Beth Leggieri**. “Cluster immigrants, his Italian paternal grandparents were the backbone of their ethnic community, and the extended family initiated me with oral history ‘back to the old country.’”

His mother then retrieved two thick spiral bound books of carefully typed biographies and recollections lovingly assembled by descendants of “her people,” 19th century German and Scots-Irish homesteaders in the Midwest.

“Immigrant vigor” was palpable among his family as they shared family journeys of hardship and victory. Not only did I know little family history beyond my grandparents, I was also unaware of any collected organized information. I was untethered to my ancestral history, and the seed was planted.“



*19th century Leggieri family home: Superintendent’s Residence & Office, Cedar Park Cemetery, Hudson, New York (Photo: James M. Leggieri, ca. 1970).*

**Jane Sanzone** recalls, “A trip we made a few summers as a family was a visit to see my aunt in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. We would wake at 5 a.m. to get an early start on the four-hour drive. We traveled south through North Country towns, watchful for moose, until we reached Franconia Notch where it was just light enough to see The Old Man on the Mountain (now gone). A highlight of the drive was lunch and ice cream at Howard Johnson’s. In Portsmouth, my aunt would take us to historical sites like Strawberry Banke, airshows at Pease AFB, and swimming at Hampton Beach.”

*Right: Old Man of the Mountain, postcard image, 1910, Wikimedia Commons*





## TREASURER'S REPORT

<b>Balance March 23, 2023</b>		<b>\$2,784.71</b>
<b>Deposits</b>		
<i>April 13, 2023 (Cash)</i>	\$60.00	
<i>April 13, 2023 (Checks)</i>	\$110.00	
<b>Total Deposits</b>		\$170.00
<b>Disbursements</b>		
<i>Waco-McLennan Co. Library April 2023 Program</i>	\$99.17	
<i>Eric Kaszynski Memorial</i>	\$100.00	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		\$199.17
<b>Balance April 22, 2023</b>		<b>\$2,755.54</b>
<i>—Respectfully Submitted, Marian Carroll, Treasurer</i>		



## MEMBERCONNECT: TIPS & TRICKS

Have you ever used Facebook for genealogy? It can be incredibly helpful to connect with others researching in your localities. It's like having your own "boots on the ground."

Read about using Facebook for genealogy, and the more than 16,000 (you read that right!) Facebook genealogy groups/pages available, in NEHGS's blog *Vita Brevis* by clicking [HERE](#).

*—Beth Leggieri*



### ***Join the Effort!***

#### ***Help Enhance Texas Death Certificates Indexes***

**YOU** can help add index enhancements to the Texas Death Certificates 1890-1976 collection indexed on FamilySearch. New fields such as deceased's race, informant's name, burial date and place, cemetery, funeral home, and funeral director's name will be added to this collection. Think of the goldmine of information which will be available with your help.

**How to Get Started:** View the Training Video & PDF here: <https://tinyurl.com/TexasDeathCert>

**Questions?** Contact Jean Bavender, [jean.bavender@FamilySearch.org](mailto:jean.bavender@FamilySearch.org); Bruce Carson [bruce.carson@FamilySearch.org](mailto:bruce.carson@FamilySearch.org); or Vicki Fanning, [vicki.fanning@FamilySearch.org](mailto:vicki.fanning@FamilySearch.org)



# SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAMMING FEATURES NEW GENEALOGY DISCUSSION GROUP



## **Connections: A Genealogy Discussion Group**

Join us at the Emily Fowler Library and be a part of a **brand-new** genealogy discussion group. We will meet on the fourth Friday of June, July, and August at 11 a.m. to discuss genealogical research methods and historical context using articles published in *STIRPES*, Texas State Genealogical Society's journal, as a starting point. Topics will include migrations, military service, proving parentage, African American genealogy, and using DNA. Registrants will be sent the focus article and list of questions for each meeting in advance. **Please register** beginning 6/1 on the library's event calendar or call (940) 349-8749.

*Fridays, 6/23, 7/28, 8/25, Emily Fowler, 11 a.m.*

Other summer library programming:

## **Maps and stories to make a quilt: The 1922 Displacement of the Town of Quaker, in Denton, TX**

Join us as Ellen Frenkel discusses her love of maps and stories which prompted her desire to describe—in a quilt—the heartbreak and chaos of a difficult event in Denton's history. Learn how to better understand the removal of the community and about the continuing impact the event has had on Denton.

*Tuesday, 5/2, Emily Fowler, 7 p.m.*

## **Cemetery Conservation Workshop**

Cemeteries are important historic resources that serve as tangible links to our past. These sensitive places are vulnerable to impacts from

time, weather, vandalism, and modern development. Join Christopher Goodmaster, Senior Archaeologist at Integrated Environmental Solutions, LLC, for a brief introduction to historic cemetery research, documentation, preservation, and restoration techniques. **Please register** on the library's event calendar or call (940) 349-8749.

*Saturday, 5/13, American Legion Hall/Oakwood Cemetery, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.*

## **Introduction to the Portal to Texas History**

Join us for this special Preservation Month class on how to get the most out of The Portal To Texas History, taught by Ana Krahmer, director of the digital newspapers unit at UNT.

*Tuesday, 5/16, North Branch, 6:30 p.m.*

## **Let's Talk About Juneteenth**

Denton author, D. J. Norman-Cox, co-founder of Juneteenth University will conduct a discussion about inclusiveness in Juneteenth celebrations. Themes to be explored: Who owns Juneteenth? Why should non-Blacks celebrate Juneteenth? Texas Emancipation Day and Juneteenth National Independence Day have different agendas; how to celebrate appropriately; and pitfalls to avoid. **Please register** beginning 6/1 on the library's event calendar or call (940) 349-8749.

*Thursday, 6/8, Emily Fowler, 6:30-8 p.m.*

## **Learn About HeritageHub**

The Denton Public Library is pleased to announce our 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.

*Thursday, 7/13, Emily Fowler, 7 p.m.*

*—Laura Douglas, Special Collections Librarian, Emily Fowler Central Library*

## 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.



## PROGRAMMING SURVEY UNDER WAY



It's May and time to make your voice heard. What programming do you want to see during 2023-24 DCGS monthly meetings?

Click [HERE](#) to complete the **2023-24 Annual Programming Survey** form (preferred method) OR complete a paper form at the May 11th meeting to turn in before leaving. (One survey per member, please.)

Let us hear from **YOU!** Deadline to submit online form is May 15th.

*Image by rawpixel.*

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

[www.genealogydentontexas.org](http://www.genealogydentontexas.org)

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

