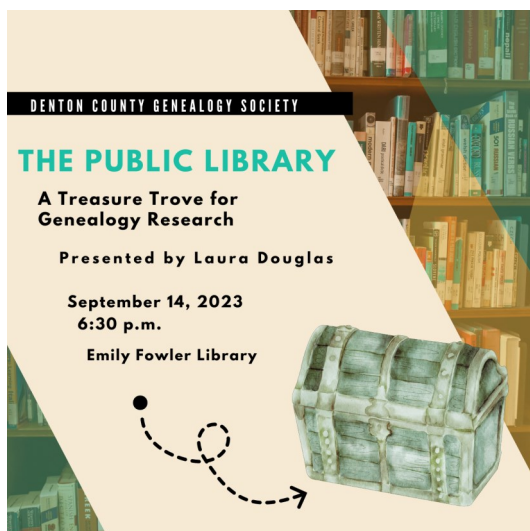


DCGS News

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY: A TREASURE TROVE FOR GENEALOGY RESEARCH



Denton County Genealogical Society will kick off its 2023-24 programming year on Thursday, September 14, 2023 with *“The Public Library: A Treasure Trove for Genealogy Research”* presented by Laura Douglas. 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.

One of the best and most overlooked resources for genealogical research is hidden in plain sight: the Public Library. Denton Public Library’s Laura Douglas will share how and where to find unexpected treasures hidden in local history and genealogy collections, both in your own community and those where your ancestors lived. After the presentation, participants will hunt for their own genealogical treasures in the DPL Special Collections research area.

Laura Douglas leads the Special Collections area at the Denton Public Library. She holds a bachelor of science degree in history from Texas Woman’s University and a master of library science degree from the University of North Texas. Over her 33-year career at the library, Laura has served in the children’s services, adult services, genealogy, and local history areas. She teaches genealogical research classes, coordinates genealogy programming at the library, and helps patrons search for their elusive ancestors.



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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/metaphi12494/m1/1/>; 2 May 2023); citing Denton Public Library.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We're all familiar with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). And you may have visited the Federal Records Center in Fort Worth. But are you aware that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has immigration records available through their website at <https://www.uscis.gov/>?

When the USCIS processes immigrant applications, the associated documents are retained. After USCIS has completed work the records are retired to NARA control. Obviously, with digitization, electronic records at NARA and USCIS may overlap. But in many cases applicant information may be found through the USCIS website before it becomes a NARA asset. If you search for a record in the NARA database but do not find what you need, you *may* be able to find the record in the USCIS database.

On the USCIS home page (<https://www.uscis.gov>), select the "Tools" tab (upper right) to view additional options. If you select "USCIS Tools and Resources" you will find some interesting options, especially those under the "Research Tools" near the page bottom. Select "USCIS Genealogy" for exploration. Check out the options and note the link for "Records Available." A drop down menu displays various record types. Pay particular attention to the variety of Historical Records Series documents, such as A-Files, Alien Registration Forms, etc. Brief descriptions explain what each contains. Copies are available for a fee.

Yes, if NARA has the paper files you can get a copy through a NARA request. But if you are looking for a record that is *not* found in NARA holdings, there is a possibility you may find what you want at USCIS. Have fun!

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

2023-24 DCGS OFFICERS

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Find us on Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/
DentonCountyGenealogicalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/DentonCountyGenealogicalSociety)

Society Website:

www.genealogydentontexas.org

MAY 2023 MEETING MINUTES

*Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc.
May 11, 2023 Minutes*

President Bob Lane called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. He welcomed everyone and called on Monica Wenthold, membership chair, to introduce our visitor, Greg Bell. There were 24 members present at the Emily Fowler Public Library.

The Minutes of the April 13 meeting were approved with no corrections. There were no questions about the Treasurer's Report as published in the newsletter, and it was filed for audit.

Reports by Board Members

Social/Hospitality – Eileen O'Neill thanked Joan Anderson and Chris and Kathy Strauss for refreshments.

Librarian – Laura Douglas highlighted the many interesting genealogic events to be held this summer at the Emily Fowler Library. DCGS members were encouraged to attend.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

There was no New Business.

Announcements

- ◆ Our next meeting will be September 14, 2023.
- ◆ Be sure to provide input to Beth Leggieri on program topics for next year. Do that soon either online or by completing the printed survey forms available at the back of the meeting room.
- ◆ Beth Leggieri, vice president, was thanked for an outstanding year of programs.

- ◆ Our president will be contacting each officer soon for program funding needs for next year.
- ◆ Our president thanked the officers and members for their attendance and participation during the past year.
- ◆ FamilySearch is seeking volunteers to index additional fields of Texas Death Certificates as described in our latest newsletter.
- ◆ TIGR (Texas Institute for Genealogical Research) is June 12-16

Program

Beth Leggieri introduced our always popular and always enjoyable round-robin where members tell genealogical stories of discovery and memories. Speakers were Carol Brantley, Walta Evans, Monica Wenthold, Deb Reed, Kathy Lawrence, Beth Leggieri, Linda Lane, Donna Spears, and Joe Spears.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. President Lane closed the meeting with his last word from Abraham Lincoln.

—Recorded by Donna Spears, Acting Secretary, and Respectfully Submitted by Sandra Robertson, Secretary



Welcome to our newest

DCGS Members

Greg & Aprille Bell

*2023-24 Memberships
are now due. Join or renew today.*

HOW WE SPENT OUR SUMMER VACATIONS

By Nancy Gilbride Casey

Denton County Genealogical Society members were busy stretching their minds and flexing their research muscles at a variety of events held during Summer 2023.



Several members attended the biennial **Texas Institute of Genealogical Research** (TIGR), sponsored by the Texas State Genealogical Society. This online, week-long institute featured a wide range of genealogical heavy-hitters teaching seven different courses. Here's what some DCGS member attendees had to say about their experiences:

Melinda Culpon attended “Legally Texas: Advanced Legal Research in the Lone Star State” coordinated by Judy Russell. Melinda gained “the ability to find statutes that reflect those living in Texas.” In the future, she hopes to “include research in the legal aspects of ancestors to form a complete picture of their lives in their times.”

Emily Richardson attended Collen Robledo Greene’s “Researching Families of Mexican Descent on Both Sides of the Border.” Emily said, “The course was so very helpful in multiple ways. I don't have any Mexican ancestors on my tree but I often see them with my clients. This gave me enough information to be able to help my clients in new ways. My takeaway? How we all need to make the effort to really ‘work’ the documents to their fullest.”

Beth Leggieri commented, “The majority of my ancestral lines are Southern so spending a week with Mark Lowe's “The Southern States After Reconstruction towards the New Century” contributed context to understanding social history. I also extended my network of genealogists who live in my research locales.”



“A tremendous bang for the genealogy buck...I highly recommend TIGR!”

—Beth Leggieri

Other summer learners dove into articles from *Stirpes*, TxSGS’s quarterly journal, during the Denton Public Library’s new **Connections** discussion group.

Nine people attended the June session to discuss “Joshua Lawrence Horn, Gone to Texas and Back Again” by Jessica Horne Collins. July’s session focused on Karen Kossie-Chernyshev’s article, “Texas ‘Our’ Texas: My Family’s Deep Roots in the Lone Star State.” DCGS member Kathy Lawrence moderated July’s discussion with topics ranging from the historical context of the Houston area and death certificates, to the Old 300 and eminent domain, among others. Attendees had this to say about **Connections**:

“I was fascinated to listen to participants’ stories of their discoveries related to death certificates and gravestones, as these topics coincide with my recent work. These people are my tribe—they understand.”—**Sandra Robertson**

“The articles are interesting, but the real gain from these meetings is the discussions that take place.”—**John Windsor**

“I have enjoyed both articles we’ve read so far, and the discussions have provided me with a few hints to follow up in my own research. I’m hoping Connections will continue.”—**Eileen O’Neill**

You’re in luck, Eileen! Connections *will* continue through the Fall. See page 9 for future dates and info.

2023-24 DCGS PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED

DCGS's Programming Committee proudly announces the 2023-24 programs, featuring a wide range of genealogical and historical topics. Bonus events include a field trip and a workshop. From the stacks of the library to the Texas Heritage Museum, deed records to DNA, there is sure to be something for everyone during the coming year.

All events are held at the Emily Fowler Central Library meeting room unless otherwise noted. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., with program at 7 p.m. Presenters will be virtual for events marked (V). Stay tuned to **DCGS News** for more info on each program.

The Public Library: A Treasure Trove for Genealogy Research, presented by Laura Douglas, 14 September 2023 (see complete info on front page)

Writing Your Family History: Learning to Assess and Compile Your Research, presented by Emily Richardson, 12 October 2023



Spotlight on Holdings of the Texas Heritage Museum, presented by John Versluis, 9 November 2023 (V)

Field Trip: Texas Heritage Museum, Hillsboro (members only), 30 November 2023

German Communities of Denton County, presented by Kim Cupit, Denton County Office of History & Culture, 11 January 2024



Solving a Family Mystery with DNA, presented by Diana Elder, 8 February 2024 (V)

Finding Your Family Story: You Shall Know Them by Their Deeds, presented by Linda Jonas, 14 March 2024

Collecting Moments Before They Are Gone, presented by Sara Wilson, UNT Oral History Project, 11 April 2024

Workshop: Collecting Moments Before They Are Gone, Sara Wilson, UNT Oral History Project, Saturday, 13 April 2024, 2-5 p.m.

Heritage Harvest & Annual Business Meeting, 9 May 2024

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COMING EVENTS

9/15-16—**German Texan Heritage Society Annual Conference/Gathering**, St. John's Lutheran Church, Boerne, (IP) \$, More info: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gths-annual-conference-gathering-tickets-662376986397>

9/22—**Introduction to Genealogy Resources at TSLAC** (Texas State Library and Archives), 3 p.m., (V), FREE, reg. req'd. More info: <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/workshops>

9/23—**The Twentieth Century Wars: Military Records and Research**, with Michael Strauss, Dallas Genealogical Society, (H), \$. More info: <https://dallascenealogy.org/meetings-events/seminars/2023-fall-seminar/>



10/4—**Beginning with DNA Painter**, Jonny Perl, Legacy Family Tree Webinars, 1 p.m., (V), FREE, reg. req'd. More info: <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/beginning-with-dna-painter/>

10/11—**Help! How Do I Separate Genealogical Fact from Fiction?**, Carol Baxter, Legacy Family Tree Webinars, 7 p.m., (V), FREE, reg. req'd. More info: <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/help-how-do-i-separate-genealogical-fact-from-fiction/>

MILITARY ANCESTORS & MORE FOCUS OF MAY MEETING

By Nancy Gilbride Casey

May's DCGS program featured members' incredible stories of genealogical success, fascinating finds, and more. In all, nine DCGS members presented their special moments, focused on military ancestors and others, during the May 1th program.

Here are some highlights from the evening's revelations:

Joe Spears shared this serendipitous moment: "One of my childhood heroes from first grade was Fireman Bill, a Fort Worth Fireman who gave fire safety programs to FWISD. His program ran long and involved a fire drill requiring exiting the 3rd floor auditorium via the old-fashioned fire escape. I missed my bus. Fireman Bill (aka William Seals Pierce), gave me a ride home in his 'fire chief car.' I was surprised to find William Seals Pierce in Denton's IOOF Cemetery while researching for the Texas Veterans Hall of Fame this year."

Beth Leggieri marveled at the amount of information contained in her great grandfather William Newton Hathaway's Civil War pension file; she was inspired to obtain the file after Brian Rhinehart's March Civil War presentation. The 114-page file "...affirmed hypotheses, contributed new information, and provided insight into my great-grandfather's determination and perseverance despite a chronic affliction from a Civil War injury. Reading his correspondence changed my past assumptions based on family stories. I found that facts matter in substantiating family impressions passed from generation to generation."

Donna Spears introduced the Texas Hall of Fame's Remember Them Forever project, which led her to John T. Porter's unmarked grave in Old Shiloh Cemetery in Flower Mound. She described how she researched and completed VA Form 40-1330 to order a military gravestone for Mr. Porter, who served almost the entire Civil War in the Alabama Infantry, CSA. (*Update: John T. Porter's Civil War gravestone was approved, delivered, and was installed on July 25th. Congrats, Donna!*)



Donna Spears marks the installation of John T. Porter's headstone in Old Shiloh Cemetery. (Photo: J. Spears)

Kathy Lawrence got to the bottom of some family lore about a Revolutionary War ancestor. "Despite having been touted as a hero for over 100 years after his death, additional research revealed the truth. Numerous newspaper articles from the 1910s to 1930s stated Handy Handley had kept the fires burning to deceive the British while Washington's army crossed the Delaware during the Battle of Trenton in 1776. But I discovered he did not enlist until 1781, and I think he deserted after he was wounded during the preparations for the Battle of Yorktown. It was disappointing, but I am happy to know the truth. Some of his other descendants may not agree!"

Thanks to these members, as well as **Carol Brantley, Walta Evans, Linda Lane, Deb Reed, and Monica Wenthold**, for sharing your unique discoveries with all attendees.

LOCAL TREASURES IN LIBRARY SPECIAL FILES

By Kathi Coatney

Denton's Emily Fowler Central Library has two largely unused and untapped resources for uncovering public and private Denton County histories: the Vertical Files and the Ephemera Files.

The Vertical Files (literally stored vertically in file folders) contain articles, pictures, and personal accounts. The Ephemera Files contain more fragile and delicate items, such as maps, menus, invitations, and even a postcard collection. By definition these items were not meant to be kept for a long time—*ephemeral*.

Together the files' contents represent a wide spectrum of Denton County history—newspaper articles on general history and local color, and stories of families from Denton and the surrounding area. Both files are locked to protect their contents but are accessible to library patrons on request.

Not having real-life experience using either file, I brought a list of items to search for in the Vertical Files. I was unable to find some things. But, *oooh*, what I did find!

From *The Denton County News*, 25 May 1896, the headline reads, "Pilot Knob Entertainment" and "Moonlight Picnics and Hayrides." It seems the full moon was brighter than usual, and the "young folks" had had "jolly parties." The first "had occurred last Friday night, the drive being made from the city to Pilot Knob and back again."

An unnamed Denton newspaper dated 12 November 1914 has an update of "Four More Smallpox Cases." "Four new cases of smallpox are reported in the Matherly family near Pig Trot, in the eastern part of the county, making a total of thirteen cases since the outbreak began in the Neely family, and two more cases are expected." I have lived in Denton County for over fifty years, and I have never heard of Pig Trot. I learn something new every day.

Next, the story of the Rex Cauble family, how they came to Denton County, their ranch, and Cauble's champion cutting horse, Cutter Bill. Published in *The Tempo Sunday Magazine*, 16 February 1969, this excellent article includes this description, "Denton residents, who

thought they'd seen every variety of rich Texas rancher due to their nearness to Dallas, did a double take when the Caubles moved in."

The *Denton Home Herald* published a trio of newspaper photos of historic West Oak Street homes on 15 August 1968. Two homes in the stretch between Carroll Boulevard and Fulton Street are still standing and are well-kept. Sadly, the Owsley homeplace at 2269 W. Oak no longer exists. What a shame.

There are vertical files on many area families. I randomly pulled the file labeled "Lynch" and was surprised to find, among other things, Bill Lynch's account of his and his wife's search for Lynch ancestors and their confusion upon finding another surname, not Lynch.

My most amazing find came from the Ephemera File. Small in size and bound in cloth—a 1927 reunion program from the College of Industrial Arts (now Texas Woman's University). It is somewhat astonishing that something so ordinary was so carefully preserved. While garments, quilts, and embroideries are usually treasured, most people would throw away a program.



If you have Denton County roots, and want a good perspective on its past eras, be sure to check out the Vertical and Ephemera Files. As a friend noted, "They give you a feel for what the environment was like at that time."

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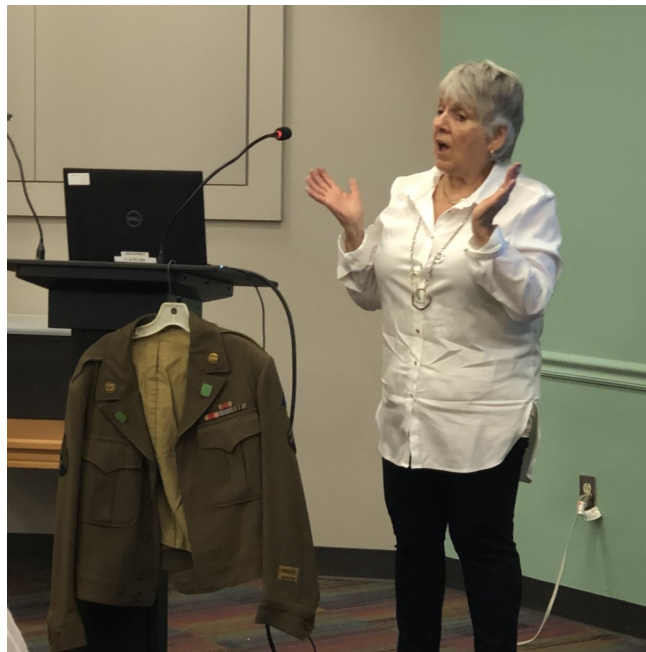
Download the library's Vertical File Finding Aid under "Guides" at:

https://library.cityofdenton.com/screens/sc_resources.html

Image: Ex-Students' Association banquet pamphlet, 1927-06-04?; image, *Portal to Texas History* (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph24918/m1/1/>; August 3, 2023); citing Denton Public Library.

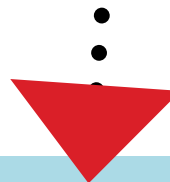
“Protect your photos and letters,” was sage advice offered by **Carol Brantley** (right) during DCGS’s May 11th roundtable. “They may not mean anything to you now, but may be important to someone later.” Carol shared her father’s WWII experiences. For more meeting highlights, see page 6.

(Photo: Beth Leggieri)



TREASURER’S REPORT

Balance April 22, 2023		\$2,755.54
Deposits		
May 17, 2023 cash	110.00	
May 17, 2023 checks	170.00	
Total Deposits		280.00
Disbursements		
National Genealogical Society	50.00	
Total Disbursements		50.00
Balance May 19, 2023		\$2,985.54
<i>—Respectfully Submitted, Marian Carroll, Treasurer</i>		



MEMBERCONNECT: TIPS & TRICKS

Member **Kathy Lawrence** shares, “I recently came across this fabulous **“Maryland Guide to Sources on the American Revolution”** published by the Maryland Center for History and Culture.

Download the 14-page guide at the Center’s website: <https://www.mdhistory.org/online-resources/research-guides/>. Then click “American Revolution” to access the PDF.

Thanks for the tip, Kathy!

LIBRARY OFFERS A FALL FULL OF GENEALOGY

By Laura Douglas, Special Collections Librarian, Emily Fowler Central Library

The Emily Fowler Central Library looks forward to a fall bursting with genealogy programs to suit all levels of researchers. All events will be held in the Emily Fowler Library, 502 Oakland Street, in Downtown Denton.

Here's a preview of what's ahead:

Denton County Genealogical Society

See the complete meeting listing on page 5.

Lunch Break Genealogy, 12:30 p.m., dates below

Bring your lunch, watch a genealogy webinar, then discuss with your fellow genies. Enjoy expert presenters on a variety of topics. Presented in partnership with Denton County Genealogical Society.

- ◆ 9/20—"Relatively Cheap Research and Education for the Frugal Genealogist," Kim Richardson
- ◆ 10/18—"Immigration, Passenger, and Naturalization Records in the Digital Age," Paula Perkins



Connections: Genealogy Discussion Group, 9/22, 10/27, 11 a.m.

Join us to discuss genealogical research methods and historical context using articles published in *STIRPES*, the journal of TxSGS, as a starting point. Registrants will be sent the focus article and list of questions for each meeting.

Hunting Your House History, 9/23, 10-11:30 a.m.

Wondering about the history of your house or business location? Preparing a narrative history for a local historical marker? Love Denton history? Join Chuck Voellinger to discover available resources and how to use them to learn about your house's "secret history."

Annual Genealogy Lock-In, 10/20, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

DPL will partner with other Texas libraries and genealogy societies to host the Annual Genealogy Lock-In. You can come-and-go, stay for the full day, or view the programs virtually. Eight presentations will be streamed throughout the day. Librarians and volunteers will be available for one-on-one help, and tours of Special Collections. Register beginning 10/1 at: https://library.cityofdenton.com/screens/sc_lockin.html

- ◆ 9-10:15 a.m., Secrets to Successful Writing & Publishing
- ◆ 10:25-11:15 a.m., Linking the Generations with Court and Land Records
- ◆ 11:25 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Visiting the Hill College Texas Heritage Museum
- ◆ 12:25-1:40 p.m., Genealogy Basics: Start Searching for Your Ancestors Today
- ◆ 1:50-2:40 p.m., Tame the Chaos Tiger: Organize Your Records and Research
- ◆ 2:50-3:40 p.m., Uncover Your Family's Story Using the Periodical Source Index (PERSI)
- ◆ 3:50- 4:40 p.m., Placing Your DNA Matches on Your Tree
- ◆ 4:50 – 5:40 PM Checking on Czech Immigrants to the United States.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

Founded in 1979, the ***Denton County Genealogical Society*** (DCGS) has been serving area genealogy researchers for nearly 45 years, offering classes and events, collaboration, and support, in partnership with the Denton Public Library—a Family Search Affiliate Library.

DCGS is a proud member of the National Genealogical Society and the Texas State Genealogical Society.

The society meets on the second Thursday of the month (September-November, January-May), at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton. 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). Visitors are welcome.

Membership dues are \$20 (individual) and \$30 (couples). To become a member, contact the membership chair at membershipdcgs@gmail.com.



Denton County Genealogical Society • 502 Oakland St., Denton, TX 76201

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

