

DCGS News

EXPLORE GERMAN COMMUNITIES OF DENTON COUNTY AT JANUARY MEETING

Denton County Genealogical Society



GERMAN COMMUNITIES IN DENTON COUNTY

Presented by Kim Cupit
Curator of Collections for the Denton County Office of History and Culture

January 11, 2024 6:30 p.m.
Emily Fowler Central Library



Visitors Welcome

In the late 1800s, three distinct German communities developed in Denton County. All three groups centered around a different religious sect, with the German Catholics in Pilot Point, the Methodists in Blue Mound north of Denton, and the German Evangelical Friedens Congregation in Round Grove, near Lewisville.

Kim Cupit of the Denton County Office of History and Culture will explore these **“German Communities of Denton County”** at the next Denton County Genealogical Society meeting, Thursday, 11 January 2024. Meeting social time begins at 6:30 p.m., with the program at 7 p.m., in the Emily Fowler Central Library meeting room. Attendees will learn where the settlers came from, what brought them to Denton County, who the individual families were, and what remains.

Kim Cupit has been the Denton County Office of History and Culture’s curator of collections since 1998, after she earned her history degree from Austin College. She was responsible for the museum’s designation as a State of Texas Certified Curatorial Facility. Kim has co-authored three books on Denton County history. A native of Denton County, Kim enjoys sharing her love of research and local history with visitors and caring for the Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum's collection.



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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/metaph12494/m1/1/>; 2 May 2023); citing Denton Public Library.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Changes to familiar websites bring new features. While the intent is to add useful functions, changes can bring a new look or different applications to familiar things.

[FamilySearch](#) has recently made such modifications to the Family Tree Person page. If you

are a Person page user, be sure to familiarize yourself with the new features.

From the FamilySearch menu, hover over the Family Tree tab, then select the Person tab. The new Person page is similar to the old page with some new features and a revised display.

The Person page menu contains tabs: About, Details, Sources, Collaborate, Memories, and Timeline.

- ◆ The **About** tab summarizes the selected person's information, in a revised display.
- ◆ The **Details** tab contains vital information, events, and family members. A new Other

Relationship option was added to record information about non-related persons. (Neighbor, godparent, and enslavement are few options.)

- ◆ The **Sources** tab includes improved sorting options.
- ◆ The **Collaborate** tab has not changed. It may be used to makes notes about research and contacts.
- ◆ The **Memories** tab may be used to add photos, stories, and documents. It now includes new filter options for sorting the list.
- ◆ Anyone can view the **Timeline** tab; click on the Timeline event to see the data presented in story form.

Click on any pencil icon on the Person page to edit entries; there are more options than ever before. Use the Person page for a quick summary of any person on your tree and easily edit as needed.

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

2023-24 DCGS OFFICERS

President	Robert L. Lane, presidentdcgs@gmail.com
Vice President	Beth Leggieri, vicepresidentdcgs@gmail.com
Secretary	Sandra Robertson, secretarydcgs@gmail.com
Treasurer	Marian Carroll, financedcgs@gmail.com
Librarian	Laura Douglas, librariandcgs@gmail.com
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Webmaster	Chris Strauss, publicitydcgs@gmail.com
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NGS Delegate	Robert L. Lane, presidentdcgs@gmail.com
TxSGS District C Representative	Emily Coffman Richardson, districtC@TXSGS.org



Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DentonCountyGenealogicalSociety>

Society Website:

www.genealogydentontexas.org

NOVEMBER 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc.

November 9, 2023 Minutes

President Bob Lane called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Linda Lane, assistant membership chair, said there were no visitors. Total attendance was 23: nineteen members present at the Emily Fowler Library and 4 members on Zoom.

Minutes of the October 17, 2023 meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter, with no corrections. There were no questions about the Treasurer's Report, and it was filed for audit.

Reports by Board Members

Social/Hospitality—John Windsor thanked Marian Carroll and Stacie Briggs for refreshments.

Librarian—Laura Douglas announced that Lunch Break Genealogy will be held on Nov. 15. Handouts from the Genealogy Lock-In are available on the back table.

There was no **New Business**

Announcements

- ◆ The next meeting will be January 11, 2024.
- ◆ The current officers compiled duties and/or procedures for each office. The president will send the compiled list to the executive board for their review. Then the list will be sent to the membership. This list will be helpful when new persons assume the various positions.
- ◆ It is time to establish a nominations committee for the offices of president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer for 2024-2025. Please contact Bob Lane if interested in volunteering for the committee. The president is in discussions with the executive committee to consider electing half the positions in one year and the other half in an alternate year, so the entire board is not replaced in the same year to allow a better transition of duties.
- ◆ Stacie Briggs placed the handout "Monthly Family History Classes at the Stake Center 2024" on the back table. Also, she has started a Genealogy Mystery Book Club which is tentatively scheduled to start in January 2024, on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the FamilySearch Center.

The first selection will be Nathan Dylan Goodwin's *The Asylum* and *Hiding the Past* from the Forensic Genealogy Series.

- ◆ The president said he had received a letter from Tower Engineering Professionals, Inc., about telecommunication towers with respect to historical sites. He had nothing to respond.
- ◆ There is a trip planned for November 30 to the Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College in Hillsboro, Texas.

Program

Vice President Beth Leggieri introduced John Versluis, executive director and chief curator of the Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College in Hillsboro, Texas. He highlighted the museum's collections and research opportunities for both Confederate and Union sides.

At the conclusion of the program, Vice President Beth Leggieri asked members to complete a survey of the program, and to sign up on a sheet on the back table if planning to go to the Texas Heritage Museum.

President Bob Lane closed the meeting with his last word from Family History Research by Judy (blogspot.com). There were no other announcements, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

—Respectfully Submitted by Sandra Robertson,
Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance October 23, 2023		\$3,095.54
Deposits		
November 18, 2023	\$40.00	
Total Deposits		\$40.00
Disbursements		
Speaker's Fee	\$150.00	
Total Disbursements		\$150.00
Balance November 20, 2023		\$2,985.54
—Respectfully Submitted, Marian Carroll, Treasurer		



DCGS MEMBERS ENJOY FIELD TRIP TO TEXAS HERITAGE MUSEUM

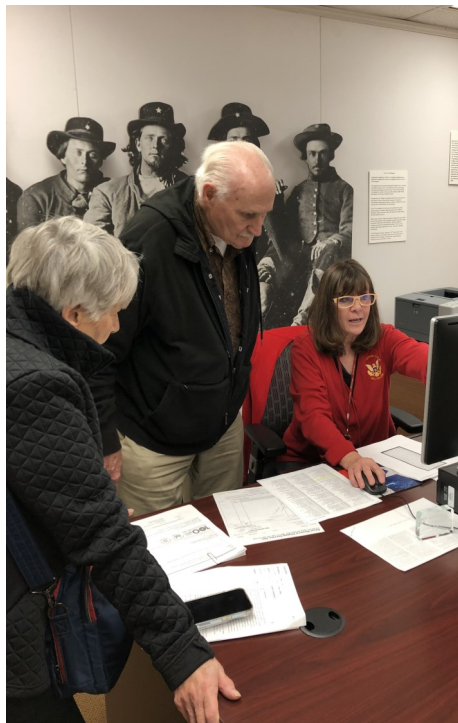


THM Director John Versluis welcomes the DCGS visitors.

Several DCGS members enjoyed a visit to the [Texas Heritage Museum](https://www.hillcollege.edu/Museum/Index.html) (https://www.hillcollege.edu/Museum/Index.html) in Hillsboro on November 30th as a follow-up to John Versluis's presentation. Attendees were wowed by the extensive collection and resources.

Cheryl Cypert raved, "It was a great visit! I had no idea that all that research info was there!"

Beth Leggieri was impressed by the "...number of permanent collections as opposed to 'exhibits' that are temporarily mounted. The range of collections is mind-boggling, continually curated and growing." Of particular interest: "The section devoted to Missouri Civil War irregular units is deep and wide. There is also a growing collection of Missouri newspapers published during the Civil War." She found information about a great-great-grandfather's volunteer service in a Fannin County, Texas, militia. Beth's tip: "Ask. If you don't ask, you don't get" when visiting.



1



2



4



3

Clockwise from top left: 1. Carol and Terry Brantley consult with THM staff. 2. THM staff retrieve documents from the closed stacks. 3. Linda and Bob Lane, THM Director John Versluis, Beth Leggieri, and Monica Wenthold discuss the museum's resources. 4. Mexican officers' pistols from San Jacinto Battlefield. The Texas Heritage Museum includes historical collections, artwork, journals and manuscripts, and artifacts, in addition to its renowned Historical Research Center.
(Photos: B. Leggieri and C. Cypert)

ANCESTOR Q OF THE MONTH: WHAT ARE YOUR 2024 GENEALOGY GOALS?

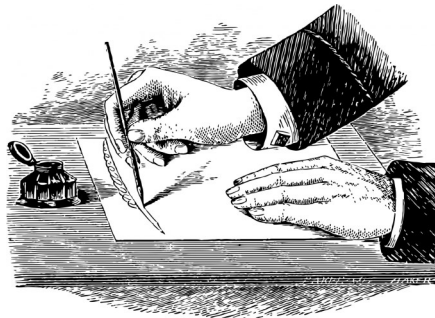
Our members' 2024 goals are wide-ranging and ambitious! Why not reach out if you can assist any of these go-getters in achieving their goals? Read on for inspiration to make 2024 your own genealogically-awesome year.

Mary Tate wants to, “Venture into GEDmatch and hope to learn more about DNA and using DNA like GEDmatch in my research. This is like entering a minefield blindfolded and earmuffed, to me. Ancestry has been a big help, but the next approach is intimidating!”

Kathy Lawrence also has DNA on her mind: “Research really gets my blood pumping and finding a paper trail of any type is always thrilling. I have made numerous significant finds over the years using old-school genealogy methods. I recognize I need to expand my genealogy efforts in order to continue to experience breakthroughs. My 2024 genealogy goal is to learn how to incorporate DNA into my efforts. Hopefully I will also develop a passion for those pieces of



the puzzle along the way.”



Writing is on the to-do lists of many members. **Beth Leggieri** shares she wishes to, “Formulate and complete actionable goals for completing assorted narratives under construction. Set deadlines to provide focus. Follow through with monthly writing group under Cari Taplin. Jumpstart inactive blog for distribution.”

“Should it surprise you - WRITING!!!” comments **Emily Coffman Richardson**. “I’m heading to get 2 of the volumes done on Melchior children by June 30th. The

research is mostly done, now it is all about layout, finding pictures and documents I want to include, etc. Excited to be on this journey.”

Stacie Briggs wins the prize for most ambitious 2024 plans: “My 2024 goals are large and looming over my head. I have had these goals for a few years, but I am setting these as my main 2024 goals. I am going to submit at least two articles to the *Stirpes* magazine. And, I am going to start working on writing my own family stories. I want to spend about four weeks researching and two weeks writing. That means seven ancestors or seven couples in 2024. I am also working on writing a fiction genealogy book. And, I want to start working on getting my certificate in genealogy. I must be crazy.”



Sandra Robertson comments: “I want to organize the genealogical files on my computer by standardizing names of folders

MORE 2024 GENEALOGY GOALS

(*Sandra Robertson, continued*) and deciding what types of information goes into each folder. Secondly, I want to write family stories. This goal includes working on some writing projects I have started but are far from finished. They haunt me every time I open the desk drawer where they reside. This goal will take more than a year, but my resolution is to be more consistent in writing. Thank you, Emily Coffman Richardson, for your reminders about the importance of stories.”

“For 2023 I had the goal of doing descendency research on my 3x great grandparents,” writes **Monica Wenthold**. “This was to enable me to connect DNA matches to my tree. I did all sixteen on my dad's side and then the eight on my mom's mother's side, and then started on her father's side. I quickly realized that this very prolific and intertwined Prince Edward Island family was going to take me at least another year. So for 2024, I will be doing descendency research on the eight Prince Edward Island 3x great grandparents.”



Nancy Gilbride Casey writes, “My laundry list includes obtaining a Civil War headstone for my ancestor Union soldier Michael Gilbride of the 52nd Pennsylvania Infantry, and submitting articles to publications in my research locales. I also hope to determine why my paternal Baker ancestors emigrated from upstate New York to Canada, and finally, where they came from in Europe.”



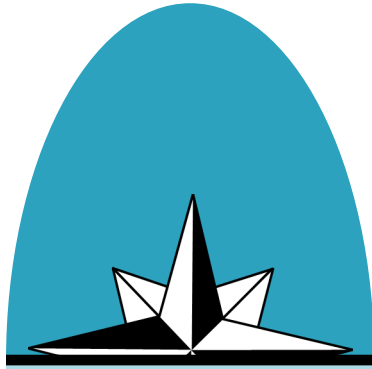
MEMBERCONNECT: PODCASTS

Sandra Robertson shares this fun resource: “Do you enjoy listening to podcasts? I do. I have some favorite topics, one of which is genealogy. A favorite podcast in that category is *Genealogy Happy Hour* (<https://genealogyhappyhour.com>) by the Two Blondes (aka Amy Crabill Lay and Penny Burke Bonawitz). Episodes are from 20-30 minutes in length—so not a major time commitment—and updated monthly. They start by describing a wine and then move on to the topic of the day. They stress documentation and locating records.



Episode 89 was “The Story of Your Life.” They talked about their baby books, memories from school years and early adulthood, and reminded listeners that someday our children and grandchildren may be as curious about our lives as we are about our ancestors’ lives. Their encouragement in this episode was to write brief stories about a single topic in your life to share, either verbally or in written form, when appropriate with your family.”

(Logo used with permission.)



*There's
something for
every family
history fan in
the Denton
Public
Library's
offerings.*

SPRING LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

The Emily Fowler Central Library will offer numerous opportunities this spring to learn about various aspects of genealogy—from prison records to oral history, a beginning genealogy program, and much more, as well as the return of popular *Connections: A Genealogy Discussion Group*. All events will be held in the Emily Fowler Library, 502 Oakland Street, in Downtown Denton.

Here's what's in store in January and February:

Denton County Genealogical Society

Meet fellow genealogists, share tips, and learn new information. All meetings on Thursdays, beginning at 6:30 p.m., and visitors are welcome. Dates below:

- ◆ “German Communities in Denton County,” presented by **Kim Cupit**—1/11 (See preview, front page)
- ◆ “Solving a Family Mystery with DNA,” presented by **Diana Elder**—2/8



Connections: A Genealogy Discussion Group, dates below, 11 a.m.

Join us to discuss genealogical research methods and historical context using articles published in *STIRPES*, the Journal of the Texas State Genealogical Society, as a starting point. Registrants will be sent the focus article and list of questions for each meeting; registration is required. Check the library website to register <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>.

- ◆ 1/26, “A Look at Divorce Records in Texas,” by **Susan E. Ball**, (Issue: March 2022, pages 20–27)
- ◆ 2/23, “Just Imagine: Creating Your Ancestor’s Story with Senses and Context,” by **Nancy Gilbride Casey** (Issue: Sept. 2022, pages 19-22)

Beginning Genealogy, Saturday, 1/27, 3-4:30 p.m.

Have you ever wanted to learn more about your family tree? This class will introduce where and how to find common records, how to research, and ways to organize what you find.

Doing Time - Using Prison Records for Genealogy Research, Saturday, 2/17, 3 p.m.

Prisoners in jails and prisons were recorded and documented. Join Dr. Judy Russell to learn what records exist, where to find them, and how to use them, in this virtual presentation at the library.

DCGS NEWS WINS BIG



Denton County Genealogical Society's *DCGS News* won first place at the 2023 Texas State Genealogical Society's Writing Awards in the Official Periodicals of Partner Societies, newsletters sub-category. The society entered Volume 36, published last programming year, September 2022-May 2023. Awards were announced at the 2023 Annual Business Meeting and Awards, held December 1, 2023. First prize award is \$100.

"*DCGS News* is the work of many hands," commented editor Nancy Gilbride Casey. This award belongs to every member who wrote articles, submitted photos, previewed upcoming events, reviewed programs, answered Ancestor Questions of the Month, and offered resources, tips, creative ideas, proofreading, and support."

Thanks and congratulations go to each of the following for their assistance with the 2022-2023 year of *DCGS News*:

Bob Lane, Beth Leggieri, Sandra Robertson, Laura Douglas, Marian Carroll, Monica Wenthold, Chris Strauss, Jim Leggieri, Jane Sanzone, Emily Coffman Richardson, Charles Robertson, Donna Spears, Joe Spears, Kathi Coatney, Melinda Culpon, Vicki Whitfield, Walta Evans, Minna Marinko, Kathy Strauss, Mary Tate, Eileen O'Neill Windsor, and Jim Casey.

Welcome

to our newest DCGS member

Sally Austin

COMING EVENTS

1/13/24—*Where are the Records? Orphan Trains and Midwest Orphanages*, Kathleen Brandt, Midwest Genealogy Center, 2 p.m. CST, (H), FREE. Reg. Req'd. <https://www.mymcpl.org/events/93005/where-are-records-orphan-trains-and-midwest-orphanages-hybrid>

1/18/24—*Ten Serious Challenges to Genealogical Research*, James Tanner, BYU Family History Library, 6 p.m. CST, (V), FREE. For link: <https://fh.lib.byu.edu/classes-and-webinars/online-webinars/>

1/23/24—*How to Trace Your French Ancestors with MyHeritage Resources*, Marie Cappart, Legacy Family Tree Webinars, 1 p.m. CST, (V), FREE. Reg. Req'd: <https://familytreeweinars.com/webinar/how-to-trace-your-french-ancestors-with-myheritage-resources/>

1/27/24—*Other Ways to Search: Going Beyond the Provided Hints*, Stacie Briggs, Denton Family History Center, 10 a.m., (IP), FREE.

1/27/24—*Mexican Civil Registration: A Deep Dive*, Lisa Medina, Sacramento Public Library, 3 p.m. CST, (V), FREE. Reg. Req'd: <https://saclibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=383055&backTo=Lis t&startDate=2024/01/01&endDate=2024/01/31>

(IP) In Person (V) Virtual (H) Hybrid

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

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