

DCGS News

MARCH MEETING FOCUS: FIND YOUR FAMILY IN DEEDS



Linda Jonas will present “**Finding Your Family Story: You Shall Know Them by Their Deeds,**” at the next Denton County Genealogical Society meeting, Thursday, 14 March 2024. Meeting social time begins at 6:30 p.m., with the program at 7 p.m., in the meeting room of the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton.

Deeds are more than just land records! In the American Colonies, deeds were any legal contract. You can find marriages, wills, and much more in deed books. In addition, your ancestor may not be mentioned in their parent’s will because their inheritance had already been recorded in the deed books. Come see one of the most powerful tools for finding more about your family history and learn how to smash those brick walls!

Linda Jonas has been conducting full-time genealogical research for more than 40 years. She specializes in using DNA to identify familial relationships, using Y-DNA, mtDNA, and autosomal DNA with traditional genealogy to verify current relationships and extend pedigrees. In 2005, Linda established the first ever DNA haplogroup project—the U5 mitochondrial DNA project, and has been co-administrator of the British Isles DNA Project and several Y-DNA surname projects. She was formerly president of the British Isles Family History Society-U.S.A., director of the McLean [Virginia] Family History Center, and past president of the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. She co-authored with Paul Milner *A Genealogist’s Guide to Discovering Your English Ancestors*, and *A Genealogist’s Guide to Discovering Your Scottish 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/metapth12494/m1/1/>; 2 May 2023); citing Denton Public Library.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc. depends heavily upon volunteers to do the work necessary to maintain structure and programs. In fact, it will be no surprise that none of our officers are paid for their DCGS duties. All tasks are done by volunteers. From time to time

we need to find a replacement for a vacant position. If you are asked to volunteer for DCGS, please seriously consider accepting the duty. Volunteers do not work alone—they work with others to help them succeed.

With very busy lives, it certainly can be hard to find time to volunteer. Yet we all recognize that the benefits of volunteering can be enormous. Most volunteers agree there is significant pleasure in being helpful to others. Volunteering is not a life-long commitment, but every little bit of time helps. In addition, you might find new friends

along the way.

DCGS depends on volunteer participation for success. We need you and your skills to keep the organization functioning at a high level. We are proud of this society and your participation could be the very key to its future success and the advancement of genealogy in Denton County. Please consider sharing your time and your talents within the DCGS community.

As you read this, the society is considering a proposal to change the society bylaws to provide for the five elected officers to serve terms that begin in alternate years. The purpose of this change is to avoid the possibility of the entire board changing in one year, thus maintaining continuity.

If approved, three positions will be elected this May for one-year terms and two for two-year terms. This will establish an election cycle for the

(Continued on page 5)

2023-24 DCGS OFFICERS

President	Robert L. Lane, <i>presidentdcgs@gmail.com</i>
Vice President	Beth Leggieri, <i>vicepresidentdcgs@gmail.com</i>
Secretary	Sandra Robertson, <i>secretarydcgs@gmail.com</i>
Treasurer	Marian Carroll, <i>financedcgs@gmail.com</i>
Librarian	Laura Douglas, <i>librariandcgs@gmail.com</i>
Membership	Monica Wenthold, <i>membershipdcgs@gmail.com</i>
Webmaster	Chris Strauss, <i>publicitydcgs@gmail.com</i>
Hospitality	Eileen O'Neill & John Windsor, <i>socialdcgs@gmail.com</i>
Newsletter Editor	Nancy Gilbride Casey, <i>newsletterdcgs@gmail.com</i>
NGS Delegate	Robert L. Lane, <i>presidentdcgs@gmail.com</i>
TxSGS District C Representative	Emily Coffman Richardson, <i>districtC@TXSGS.org</i>



Find us on Facebook:

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

Society Website:

www.genealogydentontexas.org

FEBRUARY 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc.

February 8, 2024 Minutes

President Bob Lane called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He sent the best wishes of the society to Joe Spears who is recovering from an illness. Linda Lane, assistant membership chair, welcomed all. Total attendance was 31: 23 members present at Emily Fowler Library, and four members on Zoom, and four visitors on Zoom. The speaker, Diana Elder, was on Zoom.

Minutes of the January 11, 2024 meeting were approved with the following corrections:

- ◆ Total attendance was 38
- ◆ Beth Leggieri wrote a letter to the editor in *Stripes* December 2023 issue, not an editorial, quoting Sally Austin's letter about "why" she writes and publishes genealogy research on social media.

There were no questions about the Treasurer's Report and it was filed for audit.

Reports by Board Members

Social/Hospitality—Eileen O'Neill brought cookies, and she thanked Nancy Gilbride Casey for also bringing dessert. Refreshments are needed for April and May meetings.

Librarian—Librarian Laura Douglas asked for volunteers for a DCGS tech assistant. She had a handout on the information table outlining the responsibilities of an assistant to aid in setup of the laptop, assist with the connection and start of the Zoom meeting, and manage the tech presentation requirements in the absence of the librarian. Anyone with an interest in the position can contact Laura.

There was no New Business.

Announcements

- ◆ The Executive Board has asked that the officer position descriptions have a standard format. Texts of the position descriptions by each officer have been completed and standardization of formatting is underway.
- ◆ The Nominating Committee of Stacie Briggs, Nancy Gilbride Casey, and Sandra Robertson has been approved by the Executive Board.
- ◆ To allow for a continuity of leadership, the Executive Board is proposing a bylaws change so all DCGS offices will not expire at the same time. The proposed bylaws change will be sent to members by email and voted upon at a DCGS meeting.
- ◆ A proposal for DCGS to purchase its own Zoom account rather than continuing to use the library's account is under consideration. The library's laptop could still be used. Laura Douglas is looking into options for purchase of a Zoom account.
- ◆ A revision of the membership application is under consideration. A final form will be sent to the Executive Board for approval.

Nancy Gilbride Casey introduced Diana Elder who presented the program "Solving a Family Mystery with DNA" by Zoom.

At the conclusion of the program, President Bob Lane asked for assistance in storing the tables and chairs to return the room to a condition for library use. He then closed the meeting with a quotation from Helen Keller, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.



*—Respectfully Submitted by Sandra
Robertson, Secretary*

Image by rawpixel.com

SPEAKER DIANA ELDER SOLVES CASE WITH DNA

By Linda Jonas

At the DCGS February meeting, Diana Elder, a professional genealogist, gave her presentation “Solving a Family Mystery with DNA.” Her case involved Jack Shaffer who appeared to be adopted by his stepfather, and was solved using the Research Like a Pro Method, a seven-step process to solve difficult cases.

The problem? Jack had two birth certificates: one for Jack Kenneth Green, and one for Jack Kenneth Shaffer, both with identical information. Was Jack’s father really a Shaffer or a Green? Jack was now deceased, but his son wanted to know the truth. Elder reasoned that DNA could be combined with documentary evidence to solve the problem.

Here are some of the steps Elder took to solve the case:

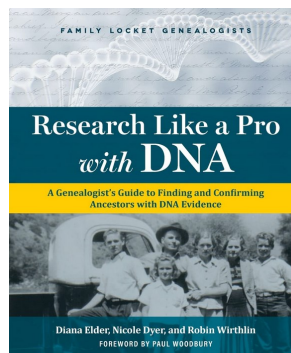
- ◆ Take a DNA test—Jack’s son took a Y-DNA test with FamilyTreeDNA and autosomal DNA tests from Ancestry and 23andMe. Y-DNA is inherited from a man’s strictly paternal line (his father’s father’s father, etc.), so there might be matches to men with the surname Green or Shaffer. Autosomal DNA is inherited from both parents. It could be used to find close relationships.
- ◆ Create a Timeline with Source Citations—Mapping the whereabouts of Jack and his family through time could provide clues to his father’s identity. The 1930 and 1940 censuses and city directories were helpful during this step.
- ◆ DNA sources helped refine a group of candidates for Jack’s father:

Y-DNA test: The closest Y-DNA match was to a man with the surname Robb, but the Y-DNA indicated that they were not closely related.

Ancestry and 23andMe Autosomal DNA tests: A close Ancestry DNA match was descended from the Robb family. A similar match at 23andMe was also a Robb.

- ◆ Analyze sources and DNA matches—Looking at the amount of shared DNA and the family trees of the DNA matches, the combined evidence indicated Jack’s probable father was Richard Robb.
- ◆ Determine a location and time where the ancestors lived—City directories showed that Richard Robb had lived close to the Graham family at the time of Jack’s conception.

The combined DNA and documentary sources provided convincing evidence that Jack’s father was neither a Green nor a Shaffer. He was Richard David Robb.



Proving relationships with DNA involves work, but it’s worth it! Space does not permit outlining each step Elder used, but they can be found in her book *Research Like a Pro with DNA* (co-authored with Nicole Dyer and Robin Wirthlin), available at

the Denton Public Library. For more information see Diana’s website FamilyLocket.com.

Welcome

to our newest DCGS members
Judy Bell & Missy McCormick.
We’re glad to have you with us!

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

five officers in alternate years (three in one year, and two in the next). For the years *after* 2024, the terms for each officer will be two years. The vote on this proposed bylaw change will be held during the March DCGS meeting.

—Robert Lane, President
 presidentdcs@gmail.com

Save the Dates!

Collecting Moments Before They are Gone, Oral History Workshop
 with Sara Wilson, UNT Oral History Program
 Saturday, 4/13 from 2-5 p.m.

***Family Favorites Recipe and Story Swap
 Annual Meeting***
 Thursday, 5/9

Writing and Telling Your Stories
 with Emily Richardson
 Four Fridays, 5/17, 6/21, 7/19, and 8/16 from 10-11:30 a.m.



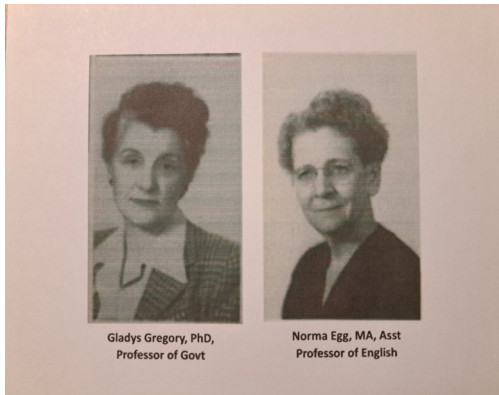
TREASURER’S REPORT

Balance—January 15, 2024		\$3,015.54
<i>Deposits</i>		
February 13, 2024	\$40.00	
<i>Total Deposits</i>		\$40.00
<i>Disbursements</i>		
February 14, 2024—Speaker’s Fee	\$225.00	
<i>Total Disbursements</i>		\$225.00
Balance—February 21, 2024		\$2,830.54
<i>—Respectfully Submitted, Marian Carroll, Treasurer</i>		



ANCESTOR Q OF THE MONTH: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FEMALE ANCESTOR

This month we asked members to share stories about a day in the life of a female ancestor. What did they do?

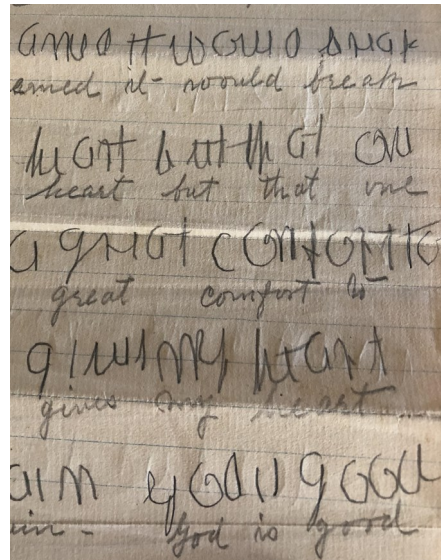


Gladys Gregory, PhD,
Professor of Govt

Norma Egg, MA, Asst
Professor of English

My great aunt, Gladys Gregory, PhD (d. 1977), and her life companion of more than 40 years, Miss Norma Egg, MA (d. 1965), held distinguished faculty positions starting in the 1930s at UTEP, El Paso, Texas. Dr. Gregory was the first female at UTEP promoted to full professor in 1951. Both women were active in the community. In 1939, Dr. Gregory presented “Democracy, Dictatorships and Civilization” to the community to address “Communism, Nazism, Fascism, and Democracy” (U.S. did not enter WWII until 1941.) In 1952, Dr. Gregory was elected to serve on El Paso’s City Charter Committee. As a Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority legacy, Dr. Gregory was a sponsor for UTEP’s ZTA chapter from 1938 to 1965. My mother, Gladys E. Gregory (“Cissy”) lived with her aunt and Miss Egg in 1947 while attending the University. Dr. Gregory encouraged my mother to be a ZTA pledge.

—Missy McCormick



Blind much of her life, my 2xGGM Arianah Ghent (1829-1903) staked her claim to resilience. Arianah’s journey included: two community of kinship migrations (1833, SC to AL and 1866, AL to TX); marriage in 1857 followed by bearing and rearing eight children; and her spouse Captain Elijah Thompson’s four-year absence during Civil War battles, capture, and imprisonment. What did her daily life look like? Arianah tied the small children to her waist and “just got on with life.” Glimpses of Arianah are found in treasured artifacts—an illegible letter she wrote reveals her determined strength of purpose and abiding faith, and a daughter’s poem composed following Arianah’s death lauds her forbearance and gentle spirit.

—Beth Leggieri

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FEMALE ANCESTOR (CONT.)



My maternal grandmother Margaret Simonik Kozlina worked at a Woolworth lunch counter in Cleveland's "Five Points" neighborhood from about 1961-1978. She and my grandfather divorced in the early 1960s and she supported my uncle and herself. I remember walking to Woolworth's to visit Grandma with my mom and brother. Grandma made us ooey-gooey grilled cheese sandwiches and crispy fries. She wore a white uniform dress, stockings, white shoes, and a hairnet over her brown hair. She was a very sociable lady, and loved to chat so this was the perfect job for her. Pictured here is the 17th year citation she received in 1978.

—**Nancy Gilbride Casey**



This is a day in the life of my grandmother Edith Mae Johnson Huffman. As a very young girl Edith had polio that handicapped her. She was unable to work in the cotton field with the family so as young as 8 years old she took on the role of homemaker and her mother took her place picking cotton. Edith was up every morning before the sun to help with breakfast, pack a lunch basket and get her siblings dressed. She spent her day cleaning, washing clothes, taking care of her younger siblings, including an infant, and cooking dinner for the family. She told me she had to stand on a wooden box at the stove and sink to reach them. After dinner she helped with dishes and getting her siblings to bed.

—**Stacie Briggs**

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FEMALE ANCESTOR (CONT.)

The immigrants had crossed the Atlantic in a much larger ship. Because the port of Indianola was in a shallow bay, the passengers had offloaded to a smaller boat to complete the trip. The passenger ship from Galveston had two dozen passengers on September 15, 1875.

The morning went fast as Dr. Heinrich Fischer (16 Aug. 1817-2 Nov. 1879) and Katherine Barbara Roecker Fischer (25 Jan. 1839-12 Jan. 1908) screened passengers for communicable diseases. Both spoke German, the language of these immigrants. The group was relatively healthy: no persistent coughs or open sores or any obvious problems. Once the paperwork was finished, passengers received their documents and left. The government documents took the couple a few more hours to complete.

When the 1875 hurricane started destroying Indianola and filling the streets with water, my paternal great-grandparents left for higher ground. They were rescued the next day after standing in four feet of water for nine hours.

—*Linda Lane*



MEMBERCONNECT: NEWS, TIPS & RESOURCES

Beth Leggieri writes: “When spring cleaning, add ‘files you haven’t looked at in 25 years.’ Genealogists are known for pack-ratting this and that for a later look. While looking through old files last week, I found a 25-year old mailer from a cousin that includes among other gems, shared documents from his British research trip and our MRCA’s transcribed day book.”



“Did you know that American Ancestors has a variety of free videos to watch on or on their website (with a free account),

and on their YouTube channel? I just watched a great video, ‘Records and Resources at Library and Archives Canada: Online and Onsite.’ There are over 330 videos on the YouTube channel, and many free upcoming webinars on their events page.”

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericanAncestors/featured>

Events Website: <https://www.americanancestors.org/events?isFree=true>

—*Nancy Gilbride Casey*

GENEALOGY EVENTS & RESOURCES @ THE LIBRARY

Denton Public Library's Emily Fowler branch welcomes all to the genealogy events noted below, held at the Central Library's meeting room, 502 Oakland Street, in Denton.

Denton County Genealogical Society Meeting, Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting, dates below

"Finding Your Family Story: You Shall Know Them by Their Deeds" presented by Linda Jonas, 3/14 (see front page for details)

"Collecting Moments Before They are Gone, Oral History Workshop, Part 1" presented by Sara Wilson, 4/11



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

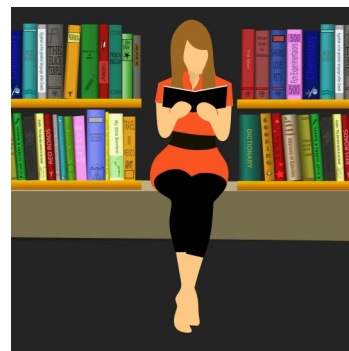
Join us to discuss genealogical research methods and historical context using articles published in *Stirpes*, the journal of the Texas State Genealogical Society, as a starting point. Registrants will be sent the focus article and list of questions for each meeting; registration is required. Check the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

- ◆ 3/22, "Passengers on the Grand Condé to the Republic of Texas from Le Havre France in 1842," by **Karen Stein Daniel** (Issue: Dec. 2022, pages 13-20)

Learn About the Legacy Lab

Saturday, 3/23, 3-4:30 p.m.

The Legacy Lab at the Emily Fowler Library has many pieces of digitization equipment that can help you preserve your family memories. Join us for this hands-on demonstration of lab tools.



New Books in the Genealogy Collection - March 2024

American Victorian Costume in Early Photographs by Priscilla Harris Dalrymple

The People of Argyll, Bute, and Dunbarton, 1600-1699 by David Dobson

Scottish Soldiers in Colonial America, Part Seven by David Dobson

Hinojosa: Last Names of Nuevo Leon by Moises Garza

Villarreal: Last Names of Nuevo Leon by Moises Garza

Chronicle of Western Fashion by John Peacock

Children's Costume: The Complete Historical Sourcebook by John Peacock

Chandler Cemetery and Its People: 1882 - September 2022 by Jaycie M. Smith

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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Denton, TX 76201**

