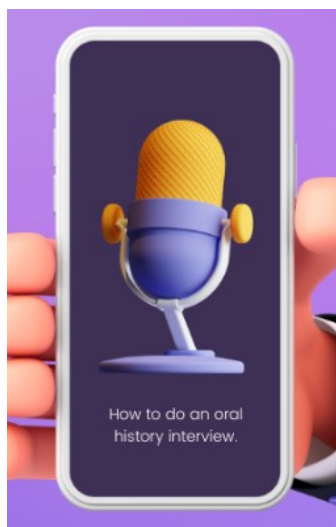


DCGS News

GETTING STARTED WITH ORAL HISTORIES IS APRIL FOCUS

Sara Wilson will present “Collecting Moments Before They are Gone,” at the next Denton County Genealogical Society meeting, Thursday, April 11, 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.

Sara’s presentation will focus on collecting oral histories to preserve the voices and experiences of the past. Gathering these valuable histories is both a science and an art. Sara will share best practices for before, during, and after the recording of an oral history.



Sara is the administrative specialist for the Oral History Program, and a certified teacher with a master's in education from Wayland Baptist University. She serves on the board of the Denton County Historical Commission, volunteers with the Denton County Office of History and Culture, and has presented with UNT's lifelong learning program. Sara previously worked as an education specialist with teachers, nurses, counselors, social workers, school administrators and staff, students, parents, and as a liaison to the community.

BONUS: Sara will present a hands-on workshop on Saturday, 13 April, 2-4 p.m., offering participants the opportunity to practice the skills learned during this presentation. To attend the workshop please register at: <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/events/65focef12038232f007d1ebo>



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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



All of us are aware of multiple websites for genealogy discovery and family trees. These are extremely valuable tools! But do not overlook the value of a personal on-site exploration. It is refreshing to get our eyes off the screen and look diligently at places our ancestors have lived, cemeteries where they are buried, churches where they have worshipped, and courthouses where important records are stored. Sometimes surprising and valuable information may be discovered that does not jump out in computer exploration.

As an example, last year Linda and I visited places in Connecticut where ancestral families made their homes. What a delight to see these places in person and visit with people that possess personal knowledge of some of our history!

With a desire to find Dr. Asa Hillyer's grave in the Granby Cemetery near Hartford, Connecticut, Linda also confirmed he participated in the Revolutionary

War having served in Capt. Bates's Co. While checking tombstones near his, she found many graves of persons with the same family name including James Hillyer, Andrew Hillyer, and Betsey (spouse of Andrew), and discovered graves of persons with names connected to the Hillyer clan such as the Holcomb and Pliny families.

Then an even bigger surprise: Not finding restroom facilities at the cemetery, Linda spied a city library across the street. So, that was the next stop. Inside, the first librarian Linda spoke to indicated they did not have staff specific to genealogy, but one library staff had an interest in genealogy. Linda was introduced to that librarian, and it happened that she had a Hillyer in her genealogy line. A big conversation ensued!

Enjoy your genealogy search and please consider visits to ancestral sites when possible.

—Robert Lane, President
presidentdcdgs@gmail.com

2023-24 DCGS OFFICERS

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TxSGS District C Representative	Emily Coffman Richardson, districtC@TXSGS.org



Find us on Facebook:

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

Society Website:

www.genealogydentontexas.org

MARCH 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc.

March 14, 2024 Minutes

President Bob Lane called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Linda Lane, assistant membership chair, welcomed all. Total attendance was 28: 21 members present at Emily Fowler Library, 5 on Zoom, and 2 visitors—Dennis Killmer and Deanna Green.

Minutes of the February 8, 2024, meeting were distributed in the newsletter and approved with no corrections. There were no questions about the Treasurer's Report and it was filed for audit.

Reports by Board Members

Social/Hospitality—Eileen O'Neill thanked Bob and Linda Lane for bringing refreshments. Carol Brantley and Monica Wenthold will bring refreshments in April. Refreshments are needed for May.

Librarian—Laura Douglas announced the "Connections" program at the Library on March 22 and "Learn About the Legacy Lab" on March 23. A citizen requested her to ask members of the DCGS if anyone would be available to help this person evaluating her mother's possessions to identify items that have genealogical/family significance. If interested in this project, contact Laura.

New Business

- ◆ Stacie Briggs announced My Family History on March 23 at the Denton Stake Center. A handout is on the registration table.
- ◆ A proposed change to the DCGS Bylaws was sent by email to all members on February 29, 2024. The Executive Board had agreed at its February 2, 2024, meeting that this proposed change should be sent to the membership. The proposal allows for officers to be elected in alternate fiscal years to provide continuity of leadership. There being no objection to proceeding with a vote, the vote to change the Bylaws was 23 in favor and no nay votes. The Bylaws of Article IV, Section 3 is now:

"Officers shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting for a term of two (2) years. The term of the officers elected shall begin with the Fiscal Year. During the transition year 2024, three officers (President, Treasurer, and Librarian) will be elected to serve for a one-year term and two officers

(Vice President and Secretary) will be elected to serve for two-year terms. Beginning in 2025, all elected officer terms will be for two years, thus establishing an alternate election cycle. The outgoing President may elect to serve for two years as ex-officio member of the Executive Board after the completion of his/her service in office. Resignation of officers or committee chairpersons shall be by letter to the Executive Board. No officer shall hold more than one elective office at the same time." The Bylaws will be modified in compliance with this vote and sent to the membership upon revision.

- ◆ The next meeting of the DCGS will be April 11, 2024.
- ◆ Officer position descriptions have been standardized and will be sent to membership.
- ◆ President Lane sent a proposal to TechSoup for a DCGS Zoom account, and he is waiting for a response. Also, a revision of the membership application is under consideration.

Vice President Beth Leggieri announced that "Connections" would continue through the summer. Also, Emily Richardson will lead a four-part program called "Writing and Telling Your Stories," at the Emily Fowler Library this summer. Registration opens on May 1. Beth Leggieri then introduced Linda Jonas who presented the program "Finding Your Family Story: You Shall Know Them by Their Deeds." At the conclusion of the program, Beth read from an email by Donna Spears describing her success in proving connections between several generations by using wills.

At the conclusion of the program, President Bob Lane asked for persons interested in becoming a tech support helper to contact Laura Douglas. He asked that people consider volunteering for the Hospitality/Social Committee for next year. Assistance was requested for storing the tables and chairs to return the room to a condition for library use. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



—Respectfully Submitted by Sandra Robertson, Secretary

Image by rawpixel.com

USE DEEDS TO SMASH BRICK WALLS!

By Linda Lane

Linda Jonas knows how to spin a good tale. Not only was her presentation “Finding Your Family Story: You Shall Know Them by Their Deeds” helpful—it kept us entertained. We learned that while most of us think of a deed as a land sale, it is a legal contract for sales of all kinds that can include much more information about families. A deed that mentions family members may constitute proof that may be absent anywhere else, due to disasters such as courthouse fires, etc.



Linda provided five excellent examples of how her persistence with deeds unlocked her mysteries. A deed can contain the married name of a daughter residing in another state, where all other legal records of marriages had been destroyed for that period. A slave deed can confirm an owner’s name, as slaves were property. Sometimes it takes plowing through piles of deeds to find the one with missing information. Remain persistent. If only a partial grant of land was made at death, check deeds prior to the death to confirm whether the missing land was sold or given earlier. The missing name might appear on a subsequent sale of the parcel of land if a bank required a chain of ownership for the land.

Finally, Linda reminded us that FamilySearch has a treasure trove of deeds and showed us how to access them. Go to FamilySearch catalog; enter the county where the ancestor lived; find land and property. You can download deeds from FamilySearch and attach them to your online family tree. If adding to Ancestry, select document and then take the time to transcribe it so that the next time someone views it, they do not need to read antique cursive writing.

And if all that is too daunting, you can always consult with a librarian at Emily Fowler or a volunteer at a Family History Center. They love to help solve mysteries.

Image by rawpixel.com

Welcome

*to our newest DCGS members
Dennis Killmer & Deanna Green
We're glad to have you with us!*

MAY MEETING PREVIEW—FAMILY FAVORITES: RECIPE & STORY SWAP

Family gatherings and food play an important part in our family history, and the May Denton County Genealogical Society meeting will feature the popular annual show-and-tell, this year with the culinary related theme: “Family Favorites: Recipe and Story Swap.” This final meeting of the society's 2023-24 programming year will be held Thursday, May 9, 2024, at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street.

For many, memories of food and family go hand-in-hand. The food we shared at dinnertime, family reunions, birthdays, and holidays played a starring role in these family gatherings. Certain recipes hold a special place in our heart and evoke treasured memories. Share a favorite family recipe along with its special story at this tasty gathering.

Recipes can be submitted in advance [at this link](#) or brought to the meeting and we will make copies. You are also invited to bring a sample of your featured recipe to share with the group. Be inspired as members recount the stories related to their recipe, or the past year's moments of serendipity, finding unexpected results, and eureka! moments. All stories are welcome—culinary or otherwise. Everyone who contributes a recipe will be entered into a drawing for a copy of *From the Family Kitchen*, by Gena Philibert-Ortega.

In-person attendance only; there will be no virtual option for members. 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, recognition of this year's new society members, and the election of officers for the upcoming term. Visitors are welcome.



TREASURER’S REPORT

Balance—February 21, 2024		\$2,830.54
<i>Deposits</i>		
February 23, 2024	\$100.00	
March 15, 2024	\$40.00	
Total Deposits		\$140.00
<i>Disbursements</i>		
March 26, 2024—Speaker’s Fee	\$100.00	
March 26, 2024	\$29.50	
Total Disbursements		\$129.50
Balance—March 27, 2024		\$2,841.04
—Respectfully Submitted, Marian Carroll, Treasurer		

Save the Dates!

Writing and Telling Your Stories
with *Emily Richardson*

Four Fridays
May 17, June 21, July 19, and August 16
10-11:30 a.m.

Emily Fowler Central Library

ANCESTOR QUESTION OF THE MONTH: INHERITED TALENTS, TRAITS OR OCCUPATIONS

This month we asked members to share the traits, talents, or occupations which have come down through their families.



Sally Austin writes, “I come from a long line of teachers—and I taught people who were blind to regain their greatest level of independence. There's also a great love of learning and creativity I inherited that clearly runs through both sides of my paternal line.

In this photo I'm visiting my Grandmother Austin in her classroom and office in Hobbs, New Mexico. I'm sitting on her desk, my brother Steve is standing behind it, and she's seated at it. Grandmother got her bachelor's from Baylor in 1926 as a young widow and mother. She went back to college at Hardin

Simmons to get her masters in her early 50s, inspiring multiple older women she then taught in college to complete their goals.”

Kathi Coatney shares, “I am descended from generations of accomplished needleworkers on both sides of my family. My maternal great-grandmother, Margaret Emma Alter Lynn, produced silk embroidery (photo, right), that is almost impossible to distinguish the right side from the wrong side. My paternal grandmother, Pearl Coloma Allen Kenneweg, made a winter coat for my dad from a bag of wool scraps someone gave her. All of the women, on both sides, were quilters. I have inherited these passions! I remember pestering my mother until she gave me fabric scraps to play with from the dress she was cutting out. I started learning to do embroidery at age four, and to use my mother's Singer sewing machine at age seven. Even though I never knew most of these women, I feel a strong connection to them through the family heirlooms I have inherited, and through the family stories connected to them.”



MORE INHERITED TRAITS, TALENTS, ETC.

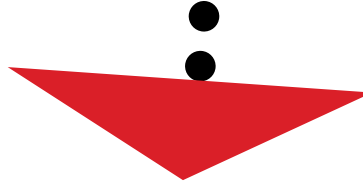


“I have psychic ability that likely runs in the family,” shares **Linda Lane**. “I have learned to channel healing energy—God’s, not mine. Not always, but I get the feeling and can help people. My paternal grandmother used to dream of things that would occur the next day. It bothered her so much that she prayed for it to go away. My father reported this. It seems to have passed to me. I try to use my dearest grandmother’s gift wisely, especially at cemeteries. No, I’m not a witch, or at least not the kind that puts spells on people...yet. But sometimes I do get a ‘feeling’ that might make me stop and consider what it is that I’m being called to do. Who is needing a bit of God’s healing energy? That’s where I might be of assistance. And thanks, Elise Mathilde Fischer Hillyer (1878-1967). I still love and miss you.”

Stacie Briggs writes, “I got my grandmother’s love of flowers. My husband says I look and act like my mom, but I inherited something that isn’t specifically mentioned in the question. I think it falls under traits. I have inherited almost all of the health issues on both sides of my family. As a child I had sinus infections monthly from my allergies. I was 18 when I started having mild asthma. The allergies and asthma both intensified as I grew older. I found out that they came from my dad. At 16 I was diagnosed with hypoglycemia, from Mom’s side. I was around 40 when my blood pressure and cholesterol started getting higher, present on both sides. Also, my early onset degenerative joint disease seemed to intensify, from Dad’s side. Then, at 54 I developed PVCs, both sides. I still feel lucky though—I haven’t had any of the multiple cancers that run on both sides of my family.”

Nancy Gilbride Casey shares, “My mom Anna Margaret Kozlina Gilbride—whose paternal grandparents were Croatian immigrants—was part of a Croatian dance company when she was in her teens. They performed in the Cleveland area, and even went on tour. When I was in college, I became interested in dance, and was part of several modern dance groups in the Cleveland area. I performed for about eleven years, eventually moving to New York for a few years. I think I inherited Mom’s sense of rhythm and musicality. There was something deep in my soul that connected me to music and found expression in movement.”





MEMBERCONNECT: NEWS, TIPS & RESOURCES

Stacie Briggs reports from RootsTech: “RootsTech 2024 is finished. The theme this year was ‘Remember.’ This was my third year to attend in person and I was not disappointed. There is an energy and excitement at the event that you can't get online.

There were several classes this year about Artificial Intelligence (AI), and how to use it in every aspect of your genealogy endeavors. I mostly attended classes about writing, stories, and reports, and a few classes about researching. I learned something useful in each class. The main theme in the writing classes was ‘Don't wait, start now,’ and it was the same for researching.

The main highlight was when I walked up to the genealogical mystery author Nathan Dylan Goodwin and he recognized me without seeing my name tag! I also got to meet with a third cousin by marriage.

The expo hall was huge and had any and everything to do with genealogy. I bought two new genealogy t-shirts; one says “A Day Without Genealogy Is Like, Just Kidding I Have No Idea,” and “My Ancestors are Rooting For Me,” as well as two books *The Foundling* by Paul Joseph Fronczak and the newest edition of *Genealogical Proof Standard: Building a Solid Case* by Christine Rose. If you haven't yet, I recommend checking out the video library from this year.”

RootsTech recordings are available at: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/library>.



Submit to MemberConnect

Do your summer plans include attending a genealogy class or institute? Are you taking a genealogy road trip to visit relatives or archives where your ancestors lived?

DCGS News would love to hear about your summer adventures. Fill us in! Submit the details, lessons, or memorable moments to MemberConnect for future publication in **DCGS News**.

Click here to access form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScpZlGlasvKTTToxU5tOq65N-sJerPYAQS8LzaFXAjhpN1YoXQ/viewform>

Collecting Moments Before They Are Gone - Part 2

Presented by Sara Wilson

with the Oral History Program, UNT

Saturday, April 13, 2024

2 - 4 p.m.

Emily Fowler Central Library

Please register for this workshop.



GENEALOGY EVENTS & RESOURCES @ THE LIBRARY

All are welcome to join the Denton Public Library's genealogy events noted below. Events are held in 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

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

"Collecting Moments Before They are Gone," Oral History Workshop, Part 2

Oral histories preserve the voices and experiences of the past, and gathering these valuable histories is both a science and an art. Sara Wilson of the Oral History Program at the UNT will share best practices for before, during, and after the recording of an oral history. Must have attended Part 1 on 4/11. Register at <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/events/65focef12038232f007d1ebo>

Sat 4/13 Emily Fowler 2-4 p.m.

Connections: A Genealogy Discussion Group, 4/26, 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>.

- ◆ "The Conrad and Marie (Otto) Flaig Family: Embracing German American Culture in San Antonio, Texas," by Larry W. Luckett (March 2023, pg 24-33)



New Books in the Genealogy Collection - April 2024

A Guide to Norwegian Genealogy, Emigration, and Transmigration by Liv Marit Haakenstad

Mother of Counties: Lawrence County, Arkansas, 1815-2001: History and Families

Farmington, Missouri: The First 200 Years, 1798-1998

History of Jackson, Missouri, and Surrounding Communities

Historic Tales of Cashiers, North Carolina, by Jane Gibson Nardy

It Happened in Pickens County, by Pearl Smith McFall

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**

