

DCGS News

FAMILY FAVORITES: RECIPE & STORY SWAP, MAY 9TH

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 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. Everyone who contributes a recipe will be entered into a drawing for a copy of *From the Family Kitchen*, by Gena Philibert-Ortega.

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.*

If you wish to share at this meeting—either a story related to a family recipe or other genealogical topic—please email Beth Leggieri to be placed on the roundtable agenda, at vicepresidentdcdgs@gmail.com, no later than Tuesday, 5/7.

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.



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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



The internet does NOT have everything of interest to a genealogist! Last month I discussed some advantages of on-site visits over internet searches. This month I focus on items not available on internet sites.

I once found a microfilm of a book entitled *Lane Genealogies V2* (1897) at the Dallas Public Library. I followed my family line and discovered Captain John Lane, Jr., who died in a company drill for the militia.

From *Lane Genealogies, Volume II*, James Hill Fitts, compiler, (Newfields, New Hampshire: The News-Letter Press, 1897), "Part I, William Lane of Dorchester, Mass., 1635, and Descendants."

Extract from page 138-139:

Capt. JOHN LANE, Jr., 1708-1755, was b. in Killingworth, Conn., 20 Apr., 1708, and m. 9 Mar., 1731-2, EXPERIENCE EDGARTON.

General Assembly, Hartford, Conn., May 14 – June 5, 1752.

"This Assembly do establish and confirm Mr. John Lane to be Lieutenant of the 12th company or trainband in the 7th regiment in this Colony and order that he be commissioned accordingly." He was commissioned Captain of the Co., May 9-30, 1754.

Capt. John Lane, Jr., was shot accidentally while drilling his company on the square in North Killingworth.

It seems there may be much more to explore. This book provides many details I would not otherwise have in my research compendium.

Often, when I find something of my family history, it simply leads to the need for more exploration. My family history of military service bears more investigation. But that, in a way, is the fun of it.

—Robert 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
Membership	Monica Wenthold, membershipdcgs@gmail.com
Webmaster	Chris Strauss, publicitydcgs@gmail.com
Hospitality	Eileen O'Neill & John Windsor, socialdcgs@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Nancy Gilbride Casey, newsletterdcgs@gmail.com
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

APRIL 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc.

April 11, 2024 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, welcomed all. Total attendance was 32: 27 members present at Emily Fowler Library, one on Zoom, and three visitors—Valerie O’Neill, Patricia O’Neill, and Paul Shelton—and the in-person guest speaker, Sara Wilson.

Minutes of the March 14, 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 Carol Brantley and Monica Wenthold for providing refreshments.

Librarian—Laura Douglas announced that Emily Richardson will present a 4-part series at the library on writing your family history on the third Friday of the months of May, June, July, and August. The Connections program at the library is continuing, and the April 26 program is about German American culture in San Antonio.

Newsletter—Nancy Gilbride Casey said there is one more newsletter for this fiscal year. For the May newsletter, members can send in a favorite photo of an ancestor with a brief description. Also, she is requesting members to send articles about any genealogy adventures, visits, or discoveries that happen over the summer.

Nominating Committee Report—Sandra Robertson reported for the Nominating Committee of herself, Stacie Briggs and Nancy Gilbride Casey. The following persons have each agreed to accept the positions if elected:

President—Bob Lane (one-year term)

Vice President/Program—Stacie Briggs (two-year term)

Treasurer—Marian Carroll (one-year term)

Secretary—Eileen O’Neill (two-year term)

Librarian—Laura Douglas (one-year term)

Sandra asked if there were nominations from the floor. There were none.

New Business

Kathi Coatney showed a beautiful silk embroidery created by her maternal great-grandmother which was the subject of Kathi’s article on inherited talents in the April newsletter.

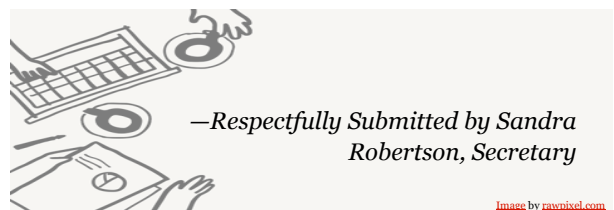
Announcements

- ◆ The next DCGS meeting is May 9, 2024, which is the last meeting of this program year. This meeting will include the election of officers effective June 1, 2024.
- ◆ The DCGS needs volunteers to provide their talents and support to create a strong, vibrant, and relevant organization.

From Vice President/Program—Beth Leggieri

- ◆ Next year’s programing begins June 1. Think about the topics that will help in achieving your genealogical goals.
- ◆ The May meeting will be a family recipe and story swap.
- ◆ Tonight’s program by Sara Wilson “Collecting Moments Before They Are Gone,” is the first of a two-part program on collecting family stories. The second part will be on April 13 at the library.

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 gave his “Last Word” and adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.



—Respectfully Submitted by Sandra
Robertson, Secretary

Image by [pixels.com](https://www.pixels.com)

WILSON DEMYSTIFIED ORAL HISTORIES

By Nancy Gilbride Casey

Sara Wilson of UNT's Oral History Program delighted a packed room full of DCGS members and visitors with her April 11th presentation, "Collecting Moments Before They are Gone: Oral History." In just over an hour, she demystified this sometimes-daunting prospect of capturing the memories and experiences of family members in an oral interview.

Sara covered:

- ◆ Purpose/Research – Why and who we should consider interviewing? What is our purpose? The interviewee could be a family member—young or old—a community leader, business owner, organization founder, etc.
- ◆ Equipment Recording – From the professional to the everyday, fancy recorders to cell phones and apps, Sara outlined an array of ways to record an interview. Importantly, she noted that the equipment requirements are a two-way street. For example, if you wish to conduct an interview over Zoom, your interviewee must *also* have access to a computer and ability to use Zoom on their end.
- ◆ Topic List – Rather than a set list of questions Sara discussed creating topic lists to guide the interview. Early memories, historic events, family traditions, cultural practices, etc., can all lend themselves to many different questions.
- ◆ Keep Track – Sara suggested ways to track interviews from idea to follow-up.
- ◆ Questioning Skills – Using open-ended questions, maintaining a neutral tone, prompting without challenging an interviewee, and "practice, practice, practice," are a few skills Sara outlined.
- ◆ Post Interview – What happens next to the interview? Will it be transcribed and shared? When and where? Do you have permission from the interviewee to do so?

Ideally, the very best oral histories are the ones where the subject's experience and memories are captured in their "voice," with its beauty and quirks alike. Sara's presentation gave us a great start in understanding what the steps are to achieving that goal.

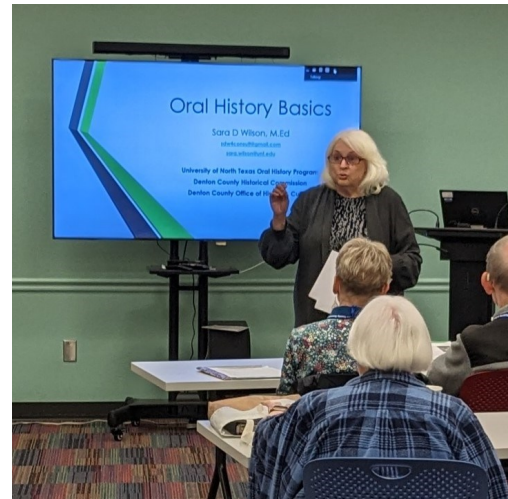


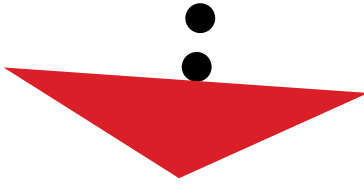
Photo: L. Couture



2024-25 Memberships Are Due

The new membership year begins June 1, 2024. Dues are \$20/individual, \$30/couple.
Membership dues for the new year will be accepted at the May 9th meeting, or mail your dues to:

Denton County Genealogical Society
c/o Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, TX 76201



MEMBERCONNECT: NEWS, TIPS, & RESOURCES

Congratulations to **Emily Coffman Richardson**, who was profiled in the Texas State Genealogical Society’s Volunteer Spotlight in the March 2024 issue of *Stirpes*. Emily was honored for her work creating TxSGS’s podcast *Lone Star Family Trails*. Haven’t heard of the podcast? Check it out here: <https://www.txsgs.org/lone-star-family-trails-podcast-library/>

Congrats also to **Donna Spears**, who will be inducted as registrar for the DAR Flower Mound Chapter on May 11th.

Donna shares “What You Can Learn From the War of 1812 Pension Files,” from the *Fold3 HQ* blog. <https://blog.fold3.com/what-can-you-learn-from-the-war-of-1812-pension-files/>

Nancy Casey shares, “Did you know that the Denton Public Library hosts the *Genealogy and*

Denton History blog?”

In terms of genealogy, new library books are introduced or highlighted. Recently profiled books cover preserving your family history, Polish genealogy, the history of farms and homes, Tejano revolutionaries, and much more.

Denton local history is also covered with recent posts on “Club-Hopping in the 80s and 90s,” “How North Lake Got Its Name, Just Another Dam Story,” and “That Time a Whale Came to Denton...on a Train,” among other gems.

The blog is a wonderful little resource tucked away on the library website. Check it out at: <https://dentonlibrary.wordpress.com/>



Thank you!

My heartfelt thanks to all of the DCGS members who have so willingly helped produce **DCGS News** this year. Your articles, Ancestor Question of the Month submissions, editorial help, speaker previews, meeting recaps, photos, tips, resources, proofreading, and suggestions have truly made this a community effort. I hope you have enjoyed reading **DCGS News** this year! Enjoy your summer!

—Nancy Gilbride Casey,
Editor



TREASURER’S REPORT

Balance—March 27, 2024		\$2,841.04
Deposits	\$0.00	
Total Deposits		\$0.00
Disbursements		
April 15, 2024—Speaker’s Fee	\$100.00	
Total Disbursements		\$100.00
Balance—April 19, 2024		\$2,741.04
—Respectfully Submitted, Marian Carroll, Treasurer		

ANCESTOR QUESTION OF THE MONTH: FAVORITE FAMILY PHOTO

This month we asked members to submit a favorite photo and tell us why it is a favorite. Feast your eyes on these beauties!



This photograph of my mother, Mary Poole Bradshaw, was taken in 1986 when we visited her village in England. Her family still lived in the house where she grew up and this mirror hangs in the same spot, where as a young lady she would “check her face” on the way out. I wonder what she is remembering when she gazes in that mirror.

—Laura Bradshaw Douglas



A Merrell Cemetery trustee sent me an 1890s family portrait, with names of the Henry Cannon Luna family. Seated center is my 2x great-grandmother, Sarah Blakemore; right is Mary E. Luna, my great-grandmother; left is Bruce, Dallas postmaster, 1929-1938. A treasure!

—Donna Spears



I had seen photos of my grandmother Rhoda Ellen French Robertson, but none of my grandfather, Samuel Luther Robertson, who died before my parents’ marriage. In my late sixties I got this tintype of them from a cousin. I love seeing their young faces and knowing what life would bring them in the future.

—Fran Shurtleff



This picture is my Aunt Elizabeth Jones Thomason (my mother's sister) in Paris, France on VE Day—Tuesday, 8 May 1945. She served in the American Red Cross in North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany. She was a favorite aunt, and she introduced me to Sandra.

—Charles Robertson



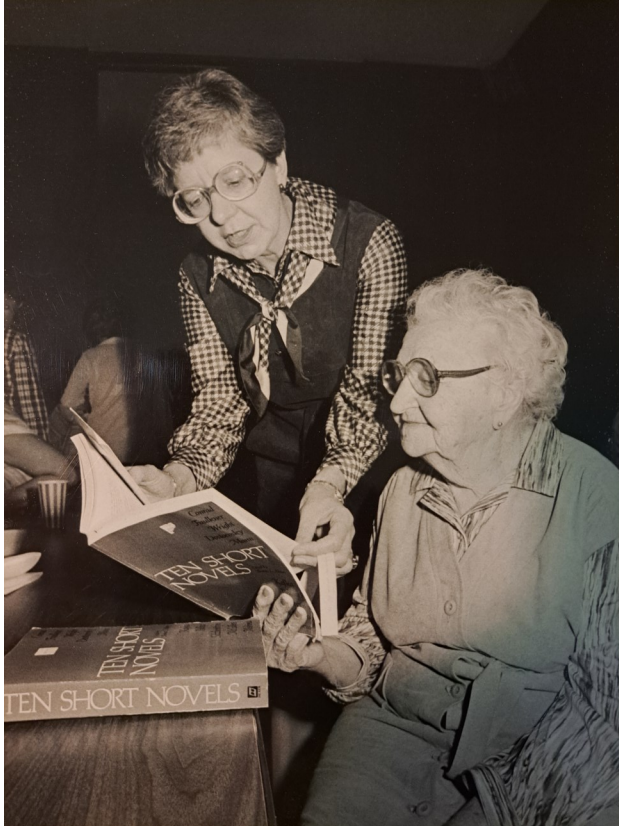
My memories of searching for this stone with my mother in Washington County, Pennsylvania, sparked my interest in genealogy at the age of 12. We never found (nor has it been found) the tombstone of Elizabeth's husband, Jacob Yoder, who is my 4th great-grandfather.

—Emily Richardson



I love this photo of my great-grandmother Anna Tatar Simonik holding my infant mother Anna Margaret Kozlina Gilbride. They are standing in great-grandma's yard, overlooking West Leisenring, Fayette, Pennsylvania, where she and husband John settled after immigrating from Slovakia in the early 1900s. Connecting generations with a big smile!

—Nancy Gilbride Casey



My grandmother, Miriam Gregory (right), was a University of Texas graduate (BA, 1910) and an avid reader. At 90, she audited a reading class at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. Photo (with the course instructor) was taken in 1980 when she was honored as the oldest student ever at Trinity University.

—Missy McCormick



My maternal 2nd great-grandfather Johannes (John) Vollrath (1824-1902) immigrated from Germany in 1851. He settled in Oconee County South Carolina. He married Martha Daves in 1859. He enlisted in the Civil War in 1864. This photo was found by a cousin and shows him in his military uniform.

—Audrey Mabe



During the pandemic I was going through old documents and found this senior class photo of my grandmother, Hazel Hetty Fowler (1912-1994), Class of 1931. No one had ever seen this photo. Next to it is Hazel at age 55, in my favorite photo of her.

—Stephen Booher

SPRING & SUMMER GENEALOGY EVENTS @ 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.

Discovering Denton's History Using Newspapers

Thursday, 5/2, 7 p.m.

Newspaper research is invaluable to understanding our community's moral, cultural, educational, and political development. The articles provide a daily diary of community events and contain vital information about people's lives. Learn search techniques for the Denton County newspapers available on the Portal to Texas History and other free resources.

Writing and Telling Your Stories with Emily Richardson

Each month, a different concept will be used to write your personal family story: writing using photographs, writing using prompts, telling your story using audio/video, and learning how to edit your work. This series of classes is designed for those interested in writing their family stories regardless of their writing experience. Registration required. See the library's events page for specific registration dates. <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>

All sessions on Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m., dates below

- ◆ 5/17 - Using Photographs to Stir the Family Story Memories
- ◆ 6/21 - Prompts for Writing Ideas about your Life
- ◆ 7/19 - Verbalizing instead of the Written Word - Oral Histories
- ◆ 8/16 - Learning to Edit to Create a Better Final Product

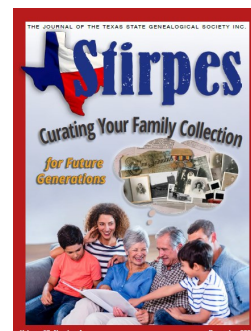


Connections: A Genealogy Discussion Group

Fourth Friday of the month, 11 a.m., dates below

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>.

- ◆ 5/24 - "Untangling the Lives of Individuals Who Share the Same Name," by Hannah Kubacak (June 2023 issue, pages 38-47)
- ◆ 6/28 - "Explore Your Ancestor's World Through Sanborn Maps and Directories," by Pat Gordon (December 2019 issue, pages 6-12)
- ◆ 7/26 - "The World War II Service of Lloyd H. Westervelt Jr.," by L. Charles Westervelt (September 2020 issue, pages 50-55)
- ◆ 8/23—Revisiting and Reconnecting to Our Genealogy. We will not read or discuss a new article. Instead, come prepared to discuss anything you have learned, discovered, or applied to your own research from the study group, or just genuinely enjoyed about Connections.



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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