

# DCGS News

DCGS April Meeting

## THE KEEPERS OF DENTON COUNTY HISTORY

Presented by Megan Joblin, MA  
Historical Park Manager for the Denton County Office of History and Culture



Denton County has many historic buildings but none more iconic than the 1896 Courthouse on the Square. Managed by the Denton County Office of History & Culture (OHC), the Courthouse on the Square Museum and the Historical Park offer a look into Denton County's past through exhibits, tours, and programs.



Megan Joblin

Join Historical Park Manager **Megan Joblin**, MA, for "The Keepers of Denton County History," to learn more about these historic structures and the services provided by the OHC at the next Denton County Genealogical Society meeting, Thursday, April 10. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., with a brief business meeting and program at 7:00 p.m., in the Emily Fowler Central Library meeting room, 502

Oakland Street, Denton. Visitors are welcome.

Ms. Joblin received her MA in history from Texas Woman's University and has a passion for storytelling, research, and local history.



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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



In life, we are often faced with a task that is particularly difficult. Here are some tips for approaching a difficult task.

**1. Review resources.** Be sure to review your collection of class materials for tips and suggestions. Include a review of helpful topics on Ancestry and FamilySearch for good ideas. Look at options included under census lists and birth, marriage, and death records. The FamilySearch research wiki may disclose interesting information. Featured data collections may offer some help also.

**2. Identify exactly what is hard** about the task. The idea is to start the work on the parts that are not difficult. Then you can focus on the difficult parts following success on the other parts. This concentrates your research into manageable tasks. Then break down the task into parts. Start your approach with what you know. Quickly jot down all the things that you know about the topic. Then

identify one of those items as a good starting point. Organize the list into an order that makes sense and start adding your thoughts and other information you have found from your research. As an example, when I was researching what happened to my father's siblings, I came upon an article written by a professor at the University of Vermont. I contacted her and obtained valuable and specific information about the siblings' time at the Vermont Home for Destitute Children. This provided excellent information for further research.

**3. Have a clear understanding** of the expected end result. Be sure your research and idea list address the topic at hand with the end result in mind. Review the information found in step 2, above, for organizational ideas.

Remember, a good genealogist is an organized person with a penchant for research.

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

## 2024-25 DCGS OFFICERS

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

Society Website:

[www.genealogydentontexas.org](http://www.genealogydentontexas.org)

# MARCH 2025 MEETING MINUTES

## Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc. March 13, 2025 minutes

President Bob Lane called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 19 members present with 5 guests; we had 6 members join us on Zoom so with the addition of our speaker, we had 31 people in attendance.

### Reports by Board Members

**Membership:** Marian Carroll, chair, introduced the visitors: Gregory Stark, Gwendolyn Johnson, Kim Chance, Clint Flanagan, and Tina Sartain.

**Secretary:** Minutes taken by Eileen O'Neill at the February 13, 2025, meeting were published in the newsletter. Since there were no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

**Treasurer:** The report by Linda Lane is in the newsletter. There were no questions or comments so it will be filed for audit.

**Social/Hospitality:** Joan Anderson supplied cupcakes and treats for the evening. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers to bring snacks and a cup for cash donations.

**Librarian:** Laura Douglas wasn't feeling well and wasn't able to attend tonight's meeting.

**Newsletter:** Nancy Gilbride Casey attended by Zoom. She thanked everyone who is helping write articles for the newsletters and said that we're always happy to see your contributions. The ancestor question for the month for April's **DCGS News** will be on our troublesome ancestors. Which of your ancestors gives you the "most grief" to research? Members will receive the question of the month email on Friday morning.

There was no new business.

### Announcements

President Bob Lane thanked Sandra Robertson, Eileen O'Neill, and Nancy Gilbride

Casey for their answers to the Ancestor Question of the Month in this month's newsletter.

Bob announced that we had received a thank you letter from the Emily Fowler Library for the books that were purchased by DCGS.

Nancy Gilbride Casey, chair, scholarship committee, reminded members that the Diana Pearson White Continuing Education Scholarship is available to support members attending genealogy education conferences, events, workshops or classes. A second round will begin in May when applications will be available. Be thinking about events that you might like to attend in the fall 2025 or spring 2026. We want to support your efforts to "up your genealogy game."

Bob Lane mentioned that on March 21 and April 18 courses are being taught by Emily Richardson on "Writing Your Story." Members need to register for each month's class about one week in advance.

**Programming:** Stacie Briggs, vice president, programs, announced that the Connections program will be held Friday, March 28. Registration starts Friday, March 14. Stacie also mentioned she will be teaching a family history class on March 29. Stacie introduced Jim Thornhill, tonight's speaker, who discussed "Migrations Through the South."

President Lane asked if there were any questions or comments for Mr. Thornhill, then thanked him for his interesting presentation.

President Lane's last word is "History remembers only the celebrated, genealogy remembers them all."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



—Respectfully Submitted by  
Eileen O'Neill, Secretary



## MEMBERCONNECT: NEWS, TIPS, & RESOURCES



Photo by Beth Leggieri

**Beth Leggieri** offers some great advice on how to develop a research trip as well as how to reap the great rewards it provides.

“Many DCGS members face a plight similar to mine: Distant research locales and a lack of discretionary time or funds to travel to where we *know* the answers to long-held research questions will be found. There’s a workaround solution for that challenge. Even in a “burned county.

- ♦ **Identify and learn about your research locale.** In 2012, I determined that travel to central Virginia for extended research was an improbable dream. Mine would be a keyboard research trip. Identifying a range of research resources morphed into a study of the region’s geography and its cultural, economic, and political history. This broad foundation provided an information bank that was essential to advance 400 years of my family’s Virginia ancestral history.
- ♦ **Harvest those active and productive research entities—local societies, etc.** This proved helpful in determining where I would develop relationships as well as which societies and organizations I would join and participate in as a member. Eventually archives, libraries, museums, and societies emerged with the bonus—active local historians who were publishing blogs, articles, and books or lodging unpublished manuscripts in archives. Online repositories of academic works such as JSTOR, PDF, Academia and assorted history journals such as William and Mary’s Omohundro Institute’s monthly newsletter *Commonplace* proved invaluable. Occasionally publishers provided lectures by academic historian authors addressing this research locale. With the advent of Zoom, attendance and participation at these meetings and lectures became a reality. Soon the names had faces and we began to communicate in earnest.

*Continued page 5...*

## MEMBERCONNECT Continued

- ♦ **Make a trip a reality.** A completely unexpected research trip to central Virginia last fall was more fulfilling than daunting thanks to a decade of previous research. With relationships well established, some community contacts offered specific planning assistance as well as hospitality and introductions to lore-rich locals. One society offered to review my itinerary to further hone my travel efficiency.
- ♦ **Gather, process, and evaluate your finds.** My work was not over upon return. It had only just begun: New research questions arose and the information I gathered needed to be processed and evaluated.
- ♦ **Reap the rewards of your trip.** Collaboration continues but at a more complex level. I was surprised to learn that my research activity was also adding to my Virginia collaborators' interpretations of my Virginia families' stories. Assorted family researchers are more intensely developing one line following my trip.

After my trip, a society board member traveled to the Virginia state library to obtain the 1783 will of a 5x great-grandmother on my behalf. This female landowner's brief will spawned another line of research: the socioeconomic implications of the sidesaddle.

Another society's members brainstormed resources for developing the material culture of the sidesaddle circa 1783. One member has edited a book on the subject, and another, a Monticello research staff, provided a colleague's contact also working on this topic.

- ♦ **Plan for the future.** It has been suggested that six months should be set aside following a research trip to process and evaluate the newly acquired information. Truth! The sifting will continue for the foreseeable future."



## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Report for Month of February 2025

<b>Balance—January 31, 2025</b>		<b>\$3,040.05</b>
Deposits Dues February	\$80.00	
Deposit TxSGS honorarium	\$150.00	
<b>Total January Deposits</b>		<b>\$230.00</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>		
2/13/25 Speaker's Fee	\$150.00	
<b>Total January Disbursements</b>		<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>Balance February 28, 2025</b>		<b>\$3,120.05</b>
—Respectfully Submitted, Linda Lane, Treasurer		

## ANCESTOR QUESTION OF THE MONTH

*This month we wanted to learn about troublesome ancestors. Which ancestor gives you the “most grief?” Is it multiple people of the same name, burned records, or some other reason?*

**Laura Douglas** writes, “This little cherub (right) is my maternal grandmother, Adelie Stella Chapman. I have her birth certificate which states her date of birth as January 28, 1892, and a copy of her baptismal from 1894 which lists her birthdate as January 28, 1891. Both documents name Mary Elizabeth Coombs and her father William Henry Chapman but DNA testing has revealed that she is not biologically related to either of them. Just to add another twist, Mary and William married on December 2, 1891.

There is a family story that W.H. Chapman, who was in the Royal Navy, brought her home from one of his voyages from Spain. However, our DNA results suggest that this is unlikely, as our genetic origins are primarily from the British Isles and Northern Europe. With the assistance of a volunteer on Ancestry we have managed to trace at least one of her birth family lines, but we have yet to identify a birth parent. In the grand scheme of things, it may not be important, but I am curious about the story of how this child ended up in the Chapman household.”



Jane

“Jane Duncan Patton, my maternal 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandmother, is a big brick wall for me,” writes **Sandra Robertson**. “I catch glimpses in time of her story: birth in 1801; marriage in 1822 to George Edgar Patton; birth of her last child Salina Angeline Patton, my great-grandmother, in 1838. Then I lose her. Apparently, Jane died between 1838 and 1849 when George had a child by a second wife. Some “hints” list her death as 1842; some as 1847. But no sources are given for either date. Frustrating! Jane has several grandchildren and

great grandchildren carrying her name, including my grandmother. I believe her children wanted to keep her name and memory alive. Jane, I want to know more of your story and will keep looking and following hints until I know a death date and place of burial.”

## ANCESTOR QUESTION OF THE MONTH

**Missy McCormick** writes, “Recently, I began researching my paternal grandfather, Francis Michael Reilly (d.1935), and Ward Maupin (d. 1949), who became my grandmother’s second husband after my grandfather passed away. My brother provided me snapshots of pay-roll sheets (below) showing that both men worked for H. B. Zachry at the Randolph Field AFB project in San Antonio, Texas (1931). My brother recalled that our grandfather was the number two accountant and Ward Maupin was the number two lead for operations at Randolph AFB (1931). Mr. Maupin and my grandmother may have worked for Zachry at the Hondo AFB project, shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941. I have struggled to find a way to verify that they were indeed at the Hondo project. The H. B. Zachry company is still in business but a book covering the early years of the company is out of print. I will be searching to see if I can get a copy. I have looked at some historical information on the company website, but did not find anything to corroborate.”

The image shows two pay-roll sheets from H. B. Zachry Co., Laredo, Texas. The top sheet is for F.M. Reilly, and the bottom sheet is for Ward Maupin. Both sheets are for the Randolph Field-Tex location, week ending 10/22/31. The sheets show columns for dates, hours, and pay.

H. B. ZACHRY CO. LAREDO, TEXAS		PAY-ROLL		2		PAY-ROLL SHEET	
LOCATION Randolph Field-Tex		WEEK ENDING 10/22/31		9-10-11-12-13-14-15		16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23	
F.M. Reilly	1211						175
Ward Maupin	1091						2515

*Welcome*

*to our newest DCGS members*

**Carolyn Case, Kim Chance,  
Clint Flanagan  
& Gregory Stark.**

*We're glad to have you with us!*

### DCGS Member Field Trip

to the

### Denton County Historical Park

**Saturday, April 12**

**10 a.m.**

Meet at the park for a guided tour

317 W. Mulberry Street, Denton

For more info, contact Stacie Briggs,  
[vicepresidentdcgs@gmail.com](mailto:vicepresidentdcgs@gmail.com)

# THORNHILL'S TIPS, RESOURCES TO TRACK MIGRATION

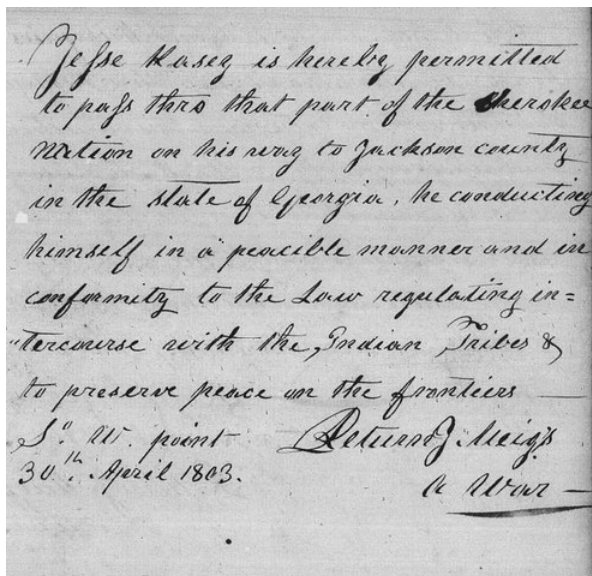
By Nancy Gilbride Casey

In his March presentation "Migration Across the American South," guest speaker Jim Thornhill reviewed several questions a researcher should ask about their migrating ancestor in order to discover the path that they ultimately took. Asking "Why did our ancestors come to this country?" "What did it cost them?" "What was the size of their group?" and "What mode of travel they might have taken?" among others, may hold the key to tracing their migration route.

Among the interesting resources that Thornhill mentioned was the often-overlooked passport. Unlike the passports of today for foreign travel, these were issued by the U.S. government to travelers who were crossing over Native American lands in the early 1800s. Transcriptions of these passports can be found in the book ***Passports of Southeastern Pioneers 1770-1823***, by Dorothy Williams Potter, available at the Emily Fowler Public Library.

I had success with this very book when looking for my husband's 4th great-grandfather, Jesse Casey, who purportedly lived in Georgia before migrating to Tennessee in the early 1800s. In *Passports*, I found that Jesse Casey was issued a passport in November 1801 to pass through Cherokee and Creek lands. I also found a listing for a Jesse "Kasey" to pass through Cherokee land again in April 1803 to return to Georgia. The second passport in particular drew my interest as it was signed by Return J. Meigs, who was both a Cherokee and military agent stationed at South West Point, a frontier fort located near Kingston, Tenn., where the Clinch River meets the Tennessee. It was across the river from Roane County, Tennessee, where the Casey family eventually made their home in the early 1800s.

Images from the passbook on which the *Passports* book is based can be found in the FamilySearch collection "[Records of the Cherokee Indian Agency in Tennessee, 1801-1835](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSP1-WQ16-K)." I was fortunate to find the image for Jesse's 1803 passport, shown here.<sup>1</sup>



Thornhill also mentioned William Dollarhide's book, [\*Map Guide to American Migration Routes 1735-1815\*](#). In this book, also available at the Emily Fowler Library, Dollarhide shows early American migration routes with well-researched and consistently drawn maps. The routes explored begin with the King's Highway of 1735 from Boston to Charleston and end with the roads that resulted from the War of 1812 in the Old Southwest.

Considering the various modes of travel our ancestors may have taken, such as horses, canoes, flatboats, steamships, or trains, can open up many research pathways. Another great tip Thornhill gave was to track where the family's children were born using the census. Look at these locations on a map. They may form a path that a researcher can investigate to discover the family's migration route and what mode of travel they used.

<sup>1</sup> Cherokee Indian Agency, Kingston, Tennessee, Return J. Meigs, passport for Jesse Kasey to travel through Cherokee Nation to Jackson County, Georgia, 30 April 1803; digital image, "Records of the Cherokee Indian Agency in Tennessee," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSP1-WQ16-K> : accessed 6 March 2020); FHL film 8257260, image 288.

## JOIN CONNECTIONS FOR GENEALOGY TALK



*A Connections discussion group at a recent meeting.*

If you haven't had a chance to attend a meeting of Connections, the April 25th meeting at the Emily Fowler Library would be a great one to join. Each month the group explores genealogical research techniques and resources using an article published in the TxSGS journal *Stirpes* as the starting point for discussion.

The focus article for the April meeting is "Navigating the World of Genealogy: A Guide to Utilizing Libraries and Archives," by Susan Kaufman, which was published in the March 2024 issue. Come and learn a few tips and tricks about how to prepare for genealogy research at a library or archive and share your own successes or experiences.

Registration will open for the discussion group on April 11. When you register you will receive an email with a link to access the article, discussion questions, and a research resources page for your use.

For more information or to register, please visit: <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/events/6769dd5ecb66923d0037e8bf>.

We hope to see you there,

*Kathy Lawrence & Laura Douglas, Coordinators*



## ***ABOUT THE SOCIETY***

Founded in 1979, the ***Denton County Genealogical Society*** (DCGS) has been serving area genealogy researchers for 46 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](mailto:membershipdcgs@gmail.com).



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

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