

DCGS News



What genealogical discoveries have YOU made this year? Did you learn something at one of the monthly meetings that led you to new records? Have you benefited from genealogical serendipity lately? The DCGS May member meeting is your chance to shine a light on your **Member Discoveries**.

The Denton County Genealogical Society will hold its monthly meeting, in person, on Thursday, May 8, 2025. Refreshments and networking will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, and the meeting and program will begin at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

One of the best ways to make new discoveries in your own genealogical research is to hear about the successes of others. Everyone is encouraged to bring their stories, heirlooms, and important documents for our popular annual "show-and-tell." **Please contact Stacie at vicepresidentdcs@gmail.com if you would like to share.** The roundtable session will follow our brief annual business meeting which will include the election of officers for the 2025-2026 term.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
Meeting Minutes	3
Coming Events	4
Scholarship Info	5
Treasurer's Report	5
Ancestor Q of the Month ...	6
March Meeting Recap	8
Library News	9

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 May meeting concludes my tenure as president. I have been enriched many times over by the warmth and hospitality exhibited by DCGS members. I am indebted to each of you for your support, your encouragement, and for the lessons *you* have provided to me and to each other. Your spirit is the lifeblood of DCGS and without

you we would not be able to survive. Thank you!

Below are examples of a tiny portion of classes, videos, and webinars available on Ancestry and FamilySearch. Take some time to look at the many valuable resources that can be found on these important websites. Examples of titles are listed in each category below.

FamilySearch. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/classes-and-videos>

Webinars: “How to Maximize Your DNA Test Results,” “FamilySearch Family Tree: Merging Duplicate Individuals,” and download class handouts, such as “How to Use FamilySearch Wiki” or “Using the FamilySearch Catalog.”

Recorded classes presented at RootsTech conferences: “Visit to the FamilySearch Library 2025,” “What’s in a Name? Discover the Six Types of Surnames and the Power of Group Projects,” “Effective Search Strategies on FamilySearch,” and “Mining the Census, Are You Finding Every Clue?”

Videos: “Full Text Search Just Got Even Better,” “Beginning with AI Genealogy: Getting Started With Generative Artificial Intelligence,” and more.

Ancestry. <https://www.ancestryacademy.com/browse>

Examples include: “Six Steps to Find Your Civil War Veterans and Their Regiments,” “Mining Obituaries for New Evidence,” “Navigating Wills and Probates on Ancestry,” and the Researching a State series.

Don’t forget to browse the Famous Relatives link on FamilySearch, <https://www.familysearch.org/en/discovery/famousrelatives>

But most of all, have fun with your research and happy hunting!

—Robert Lane, President
presidentdcgs@gmail.com

2024-25 DCGS OFFICERS

President	Robert L. Lane, presidentdcgs@gmail.com
Vice President	Stacie Briggs, vicepresidentdcgs@gmail.com
Secretary	Eileen O’Neill, secretarydcgs@gmail.com
Treasurer	Linda Lane, financedcgs@gmail.com
Librarian	Laura Douglas, librariandcgs@gmail.com
Membership	Marian Carroll, membershipdcgs@gmail.com
Webmaster	Charlene Case, publicitydcgs@gmail.com
Hospitality	Joan Anderson, 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 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc.

April 10, 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 24 members present with four on Zoom. There were three guests: Marty Medrano, Jodi and Knox McRae. With our speaker, we had 31 in attendance.

Reports by Board Members

Membership: Marian Carroll, chair, introduced our visitors.

Secretary: Minutes taken by Eileen O'Neill at the March 13, 2025 meeting were published in the newsletter. There were no objections to approving the minutes as published.

Treasurer: The report by Linda Lane is in the newsletter. The financial report was approved as presented and will be filed for audit.

Social/Hospitality: Joan Anderson was ill so Marian Carroll set up our snacks. Monica Wenthold supplied the delicious blueberry bread.

Librarian: Laura Douglas mentioned that Connections, the genealogy discussion group, is meeting on April 25 from 11:00 a.m. until noon at Emily Fowler Library. Registration opened April 11th. There are stacks of journals at the back of the meeting room, free to anyone who would like them.

Newsletter: Nancy Gilbride Casey was not here tonight so Bob Lane gave her report. For the May "Ancestor Question of the Month" we will repeat last year's theme of "Your Favorite Ancestor Photograph" since it was such a success. So, dig out a favorite picture and send it to the newsletter editor. Instructions will go out in an email in the next few days.

Scholarship Committee: Bob gave Nancy's report. We will open the Diana Pearson White Continuing Genealogical Education Scholarship applications at the May meeting. We would LOVE to give someone up to \$200 to attend a genealogical workshop, class, or other event during Fall 2025 or Spring 2026. Preference will be given to first-time attendees at a paid event, but all are welcome to apply. Applications will be due in September.

There was no new business.

Announcements

- ◆ President Bob Lane announced the appointment of a new webmaster to take the place of Chris Strauss. We appreciate Charlene Case for volunteering and thank Chris for his service to DCGS.
- ◆ There will be a discussion of "How to Start Writing Your Ancestors' Memories," with Emily Richardson on April 18 at Emily Fowler. This is part 2 of the discussion; please register to attend.
- ◆ DCGS will elect new officers at the May meeting. The nominating committee has announced nominations: President - Eileen O'Neill; Treasurer - Linda Lane,

Librarian - Laura Douglas.

Marian Carroll had been treasurer for a year when she switched to membership chair, and Linda took over as treasurer. Since Eileen is currently secretary, Bob Lane has agreed to take over the second year of her two-year term. If anyone would like to be considered for one of these offices, either now or in the future, please contact Bob Lane, Beth Leggieri, or Eileen O'Neill. President Lane stated that it is important to have a change in leadership to bring fresh perspectives and ideas to our society.

- ◆ President Lane mentioned that TIGR, the Texas Institute of Genealogical Research, will hold a week-long virtual conference from June 16-20. There will be nationally known instructors for these courses. Registration is open.
- ◆ Stacie Briggs announced her April family history class, "Resolving Conflicting Evidence" on April 26 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the Family History Center.

Programming: Stacie Briggs, vice president for programs, announced that Saturday, April 12, there will be a DCGS member field trip to the Denton County Historical Park to have a guided tour through the historical buildings. Stacie also asked that members fill out the end-of-year survey asking for ideas about future programs that members would like to see. Next month, the program will again be our member discoveries. This is especially fun if a discovery is based on one of our speakers. Presentations should be limited to 5-7 minutes. Email Stacie by May 6 to volunteer.

Stacie introduced our speaker, Megan Joblin, Denton County Historical Park manager; she spoke on "The Keepers of Denton County History."

President Lane asked for questions or comments and thanked Megan for her presentation.

President Lane reminded the membership that our next meeting is May 8.

President Lane's last word is from George W. Bush: "So, I'm lying on the couch and Laura walks in and I say, 'Free at last,' and she says, 'You're free all right, you're free to do the dishes.' So I say, 'You're talking to the former president, baby,' and she says, 'Consider this your new domestic policy agenda.'"

Assistance is requested returning the tables and chairs to their places.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.



—Respectfully Submitted by

Eileen O'Neill, Secretary



Membership dues were increased by membership vote in Oct. 2024. The new rates will begin with the 2025-26 membership year, which starts June 1st. **Membership dues are \$25 (individual) and \$35 (couples).**

Dues are payable by cash or check made payable to *Denton County Genealogical Society*.

Membership dues will be collected beginning at the May 10 meeting, so plan to bring your check/cash to the May meeting.

Roots Writers

Denton County Genealogical Society's
Collaborative Writing Group

A space to write, reflect, and find
inspiration in your family's past.

11:00 a.m. – noon
June 25, July 23, Aug. 27
Zera's Coffee and Events
420 E. McKinney Street.

Park on the east side of Zera's building.
Coffee and light meals available for purchase

For info: Librariandcgs@gmail.com

**TEXAS INSTITUTE
of GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**
To Enrich, Expand and Inspire.
16-20 June 2025 Registration is Open!

Course 1 – *Research in the Lone Star State*
Coordinator: Kelvin L. Meyers

Course 2 – *Building Communities Across the South*
Coordinator: J. Mark Lowe, FUGA

Course 3 – *Legally Texas: Advanced Legal Research in the Lone Star State*
Coordinator: Judy G. Russell, JD, CG®, CGL®, FUGA

Course 4 – *Integrating AI into Genealogical Research and Writing*
Coordinator: Nicole Elder Dyer

Course 5 – *Beyond the Battlefield: Advanced Military Research Analysis and Methodology*
Coordinator: Michael L. Strauss, AG®

txsgs.org/TIGR-2025

Join TxSGS for these exciting virtual events!

www.txsgs.org

VIRTUAL Save the Date!
Texas State Genealogical Society
2025 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE
"Discovering Family Roots"
DEEP IN THE HEART *Virtual*
7-8 NOVEMBER 2025

TxSGS LIVE 2025

10 PRESENTATIONS WITH Q&A BY SPEAKERS
ON-DEMAND RECORDINGS
BONUS RECORDINGS AND MORE!

Access to all recordings available following the event

#TxSGS2025 www.TxSGS.org

2025-26 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW OPEN



Applications are now open for the 2025-26 round of the ***Diana Pearson White Continuing Genealogical Education Scholarship***. The scholarship, instituted in May 2024, supports the efforts of DCGS members to attend workshops, classes, conferences, or other educational events to further their research skills and knowledge. A total of \$200 is available; more than one recipient may be chosen if funds allow.

♦ Applicants must be DCGS members in good standing when applying and complete a brief application.

♦ Applicants should choose an opportunity that occurs between Fall 2025-Summer 2026. A list of possible events will also be available, but is by no means exhaustive.

♦ Applications will be available at the May meeting and emailed to all DCGS members following the meeting.

♦ Applications will be due by September 11, 2025, with the recipients announced at the October 2025 meeting.

♦ **Questions? Email presidentdcs@gmail.com.**

Image: Rawpixel



TREASURER'S REPORT

Report for Month of March 2025

Balance—February 28, 2025		\$3,120.05
Deposits Dues March	\$80.00	
Total February Deposits		\$80.00
Disbursements		
3/13/25 TxSGS Dues	\$30.00	
3/13/25 Speaker's Fee	\$100.00	
Total February Disbursements		\$130.00
Balance March 31, 2025		\$3,070.05
—Respectfully Submitted, Linda Lane, Treasurer		

MY FAVORITE ANCESTOR PHOTO

This month we feature some of our members' favorite photographs!



Donna Spears submitted these photos of Francis Wildey and Alice Myers Baldwin, her great-grandparents. "In August 2024 our Find a Grave account received a message from a stranger. He wrote that his hobby was to shop in antique stores for photos which had names on the back. Then he researched the people to find living descendants to whom he could give the photos. That's how I received very clear photos of my maternal great-grandparents. The very generous stranger declined reimbursement for the photos and the postage to mail them to me. What an amazing, kind hobby."

Ginny Richards writes, "This is a photo of my great-grandfather (at the left anvil), Harvey Franklin Barger, his brother (at the right anvil), Newton Allen Barger, and two other unidentified men in the Barger Bros. Blacksmith shop in Cedar Vale, Kansas. I believe this photo was taken in the 1910s."

One interesting fact about Cedar Vale is the town (founded in 1869) was laid out on the diagonal, rather than aligned with the N-S compass points, giving an unobstructed view of the Caney River and Cedar Creek Valleys."



Share your summer AHA moments, kudos, finds, and resources for publication in the September **DCGS News**.

Submit your MemberConnect here: <https://tinyurl.com/2rscsufo>



John Windsor writes, “This is a photo taken in 1946, in Wilmington, Delaware, showing four generations of Windsor men. I am the one in the blankets, held by my father, Clayton C. Windsor. In the center is Rev. Lester E. Windsor, and to the right is George W. Windsor who passed away four months later. This is the only picture every taken of all four generations. “

Sandra Robertson writes, “The woman on the left is my maternal grandmother, Nancy Jane Stevens West. The woman on the right is my paternal grandmother, Minnie Moore Dockrey. Nancy died four months before I was born. Minnie died when I was two years old. I miss never having known my grandmothers. On a personal note about Nancy’s picture—my mother told me that she was too old to have her picture made with her hair down, but my grandfather loved her long hair and requested it be down in the picture.”



“The photo shows my father, Charles S. Robertson, Sr., at the piano,” writes **Charles Robertson**. “His friend, Van Valentine, is playing violin. They were part of a small musical group which Van organized and directed, and which had a Sunday afternoon program on the local radio station for a few years. The studio was a room added to the Valentine’s residence. It had a pipe organ, piano, and various kinds of recording equipment.”

JOBLIN SPOTLIGHTS COUNTY'S COURTHOUSE ON THE SQUARE AND HISTORICAL PARK

By Missy McCormick



Denton County Courthouse in 1900.¹

In her presentation, “The Keepers of Denton County History,” Megan Joblin, MA, provided valuable and historical information about the Denton County Courthouse on the Square, as well as the Historical Park located nearby. Ms. Joblin is the Historical Park Manager for the Denton County Office of History & Culture (OHC).

The current Courthouse on the Square is the third county court building built in Denton. The first courthouse was built on the north side of the square in 1857 but burned down in 1875. In 1877, a yellow brick building was built in the center of the square but was demolished after it was struck by lightning around 1895. In 1896, the cornerstones of the current building were laid. The courthouse was designed by W.C. Dodson and used locally quarried limestone brought to the site by wagon. The tools used by the masons to build the structure are displayed in the Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum. Unfortunately, the courthouse is currently closed for renovations and will hopefully open in Fall 2025. As stated by Ms. Joblin, “Many efforts are being made to bring the interior of the building back to its original glory.”

The Denton County Historical Park (located near the courthouse) is the home to five historical homes. The Bayless-Selby House (previous owners included the Bayless and the Selby families), was purchased by the City of Denton. The home was moved to the Historical Park in 1998 and opened as the Bayless-Selby House Museum in September 2001. The Denton County African American Museum—once a home in the displaced Quakertown Community—was moved to the Historical Park in 2004. The two museums are currently open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (April-October).

The Historical Park has a structure called the Welcome Center (previously a servants’ quarters brought from Lewisville), but Ms. Joblin noted that the structure serves more accurately as a small office space. The Taylor Cabin, a log house originally built around 1868, and the Woods House, another home from Quakertown Community, are also located in the Historical Park. Coming soon: a General Store from Stoney Town (now called Ponder) will be added to the Historical Park.

¹ Denton County Courthouse, abt. 1900; imaged, *The Portal to Texas History* (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph12357/m1/1/>; accessed 16 April 2025); citing University of North Texas; citing Denton Public Library.



The 2025-26 **DCGS Programming Survey** is still open for your submissions. Click the link below to respond no later than May 9th.

<https://forms.gle/PL8RiMPtc3eh5JPd7>

NEW BOOKS & SUMMER CONNECTIONS



Connections, a Genealogy Discussion Group

Join us for a group that explores genealogical research through discussion of articles published in the TxSGS Journal *Stirpes*. The meeting on May 23 will focus on the article, “Rachel – A Story of Emancipation,” by Diane L. Richard, published in *Stirpes*, 9/2019, p. 49-54. The discussion of this article and the research challenge that accompanied it will continue at the July 27 meeting. The group meets at 11 a.m. at the Emily Fowler Library. Please visit <https://bit.ly/4d6KFbj> to register. Registrants will receive the focus article and a list of questions to guide our conversation.



New Books at Emily Fowler

Visit the Genealogy section at the Emily Fowler Central Library to view these new titles:

Index to the South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research, Volumes I-X, 1973-1982 by Margaret H. Cannon

Duval County Tejanos: An Epic Narrative of Liberty and Democracy by Alfredo E. Cárdenas

Records of Indentured Servants Lancaster County Virginia 1650-1750 by Margaret L. Forrester

Marylanders to Carolina: Migration of Marylanders to North Carolina and South Carolina Prior to 1800 by Henry C. Peden

Spartanburg County-District, South Carolina, Deed Abstracts, Book A-T 1785-1827 by Albert Bruce Pruitt

Jamaican Genealogy Research: A Practical Guide to the Best Resources for Tracing Your Ancestry by Vilma Ruddock

Czech and Slovak Immigration to America: When, Why, How, and Where by Stephen Szabados

Preserving Family Photographs: The Essential Guide to Preserving, Sharing, and Organizing Your Family Photographs by Maureen A. Taylor

Spartanburg County, SC Genealogical Abstracts from the Carolina Spartan: 1866-1872 by Larry Vehorn

Rains County, Texas School Census, 1936-1939 by Elaine N. Bay and Henrietta Welch

Pendleton District, SC., Deeds, 1790 to 1806 by Betty Willie



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 \$25 (individual) and \$35 (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**

