

# DCGS News

## USGENWEB IN FALL SPOTLIGHT



Paula Perkins

**Paula Perkins** will kick off the Denton County Genealogical Society's 2025-2026 program year with the virtual presentation "**TXGenWeb to USGenWeb Project® —Free Genealogy Resources at your Fingertips!**" The meeting will be held on September 11, 2025. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., with a brief business meeting and presentation beginning at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton. Visitors are welcome.

The USGenWeb Project® began in 1996 to provide free online genealogical and historical resources for each state and is still going strong after 25+ years. It was named one of the **Best US, Canadian and Caribbean Genealogy Websites** in 2025 by *Family Tree Magazine*. It features county pages for each U.S. state, showcasing resources such as biographical sketches, court records, photos, surnames, military, vital records, cemeteries, county histories, and more. Paula will discuss how the project can benefit your research endeavors and volunteer opportunities.

A Texan with Denton County connections, Paula's interest in genealogy began as a young girl when her parents took her to visit "cousins," and her maternal grandmother shared stories and letters.

She is currently president of the Collin County Genealogical Society, DNA chair for the Texas State Genealogical Society, and a volunteer FamilyTreeDNA project administrator. She serves as the USGenWeb Project® Texas state coordinator and is a county coordinator for both TXGenWeb and GAGenWeb. In addition, Paula is also an instructor for TxSGS's "Genealogy Essentials" course and is president and historian for the Norman Family Association of Georgia. She has served on the boards of numerous genealogical societies—including Denton County—lectures and publishes articles widely and has appeared on radio and television to share her passion for genealogy.



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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



*Eileen O'Neill*

I'm excited to begin this year as the new DCGS president. I've lived in Denton for 42 years but don't have genealogical roots here. My mom's family came from the southeastern U.S. and Virginia in the early 1700s, and my dad's family were immigrants who came to Chicago from Ireland and Germany in the 1880s.

As with many of us, I wish I had asked my parents and grandparents lots more questions. Mom said once she could have applied to the DAR so we knew our American roots went deep. That got me and my sisters started. I have been a dabbler in genealogy for probably 25 years.

My sisters live elsewhere but we often work together. Our love of history has us falling down "rabbit holes" as we find tidbits leading to fascinating stories but not necessarily advancing our trees. (Note to self: use research questions to avoid rabbit holes.) Dad used to joke about his "long-lost uncle," which seemed to be just a funny story until we found a second cousin through DNA who was the grandson of that no-longer-lost uncle!

I'm in awe of our DCGS members' knowledge, expertise and genealogical connections; I've learned so much from you. Using research questions, documenting sources carefully, and writing down stories are all great advice I've received. In addition to DCGS I'm a member of TxSGS and have found many resources through both societies.

I want DCGS to be an active, vibrant society; we need members to step up to help as we go through our year "Disturbing the dead and annoying the living."

—*Eileen O'Neill, President*  
*presidentdcgs@gmail.com*

### Visit DCGS online



**Facebook**

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

**Website**

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

### 2025-26 DCGS OFFICERS

#### President

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#### Vice President

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#### TxSGS District C Representative

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**DCGS News** is published eight times annually, September–November and January–May.

Submissions always welcome at [newsletterdcgs@gmail.com](mailto:newsletterdcgs@gmail.com).

#### Newsletter Editor

Nancy Gilbride Casey  
[newsletterdcgs@gmail.com](mailto:newsletterdcgs@gmail.com)

#### Staff

Laura Douglas, Kathy Lawrence

**DCGS News** is proud to be the 2024-25 and 2023-24 1st place winner in the Texas State Genealogical Society Writing Awards, Partner Society Publications category.

# MAY 2025 MEETING MINUTES

*Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc., May 8, 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 23 members present; Zoom was not available. There was one guest.

## **Reports by Board Members**

**Membership**—Marian Carroll, chair, introduced our visitor, Dee Dewe.

**Secretary**—Minutes taken by Eileen O'Neill at the April 10, 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 brought treats. She thanked Missy McCormick who brought cookies and other goodies as well as Beth Leggieri for bringing the cake with a "Thank you, Bob" on it.

**Librarian**—Laura Douglas reminded the membership to look at the events/presentations scheduled at the Emily Fowler Library over the summer. Connections will meet May 23 from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon; please register in advance. The article being discussed is "Rachel - A Story of Emancipation."

**Newsletter**—Nancy Gilbride Casey said that there was no room in this month's issue of DCGS News to thank everyone who has contributed in some way to the success of this year's newsletter. In particular Nancy wanted to recognize Laura Douglas, who designed the wonderful meeting graphics and Kathy Lawrence, who has been the eagle-eye proofreader; thanks to Missy McCormick, Sandra Robertson, Minna Marinko, Arthur Medrano, and Kathy Lawrence, who wrote meeting recaps, and to all who submitted to the Ancestor Question of the Month, sometimes more than once: Laura D., Sandra, Stacie Briggs, Vicki Whitfield, Linda Lane, Charles Robertson, John Windsor, Eileen O'Neill, Missy McCormick, Fran Shurtleff, Beth Leggieri, Mary Tate, Minna Marinko, Donna Spears, and Ginny Richards. Nancy said how much she appreciates each and every one of you so much as you help make this newsletter truly a group effort. We're going to submit for the third year in a row to the TxSGS Writing Awards for the newsletter...let's see if we can 3-peat for first place!!

Scholarship Committee—Nancy Gilbride Casey reported that the application for the 2025-26 Diana Pearson White Continuing Genealogical Education Scholarship is now open. There has been a pool of \$200 to be awarded this round to one or more members to attend a genealogical education event during Fall 2025-Summer 2026. There is a simple one-page application; copies are available on the back table and will also be emailed to all members in the next few days. Applications are due at the September 2025 meeting; the scholarship will be awarded at the October 2025 meeting. There is also a list of possible events as a jumping off point, but you can apply to attend any genealogical event, so don't let the list limit you. Diana White has graciously added an additional \$100 to the scholarship fund so we have a total of \$300 that can be awarded.

## **New Business**

Election of Officers for 2025/26 (effective June 1, 2025)

- President: Eileen O'Neill
- Treasurer: Linda Lane
- Librarian: Laura Douglas
- Secretary: Bob Lane (to fill year 2 of the previous term)

President Lane asked if there were any other nominations. With no other nominations, Bob asked if there were any objections to voting for the slate as a bloc. There being none, the vote was unanimous to approve as nominated.

## **Announcements**

Sandra Roberts asked members to think about writing this summer. There will be discussion group meetings on June 6, July 25, and August 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Zera's Coffee. There are no deadlines, no pressure, just encouragement. There's off-street parking and excellent coffee.

Stacie Briggs announced classes at the Denton Family History Center: "Ways to do Family History When You Don't Want To," and another on deeds in June. Stacie also stated that great classes with excellent speakers are offered by TIGR from June 16-20. Look at the Texas State Genealogical Society website for more information.

President Lane made several announcements:

*(See "Minutes," p. 4)*

## Upcoming DCGS Programs

***AI and Genealogy: Trouble Ahead?*** with Thomas MacEntree

While AI (artificial intelligence) might be the current “hot” buzz word, the fact is that many genealogy vendors and even genealogists have already been using this technology for years. The AI industry is at a crossroads and within the next five years, it will permeate almost every aspect of business and society. Learn how AI is currently being used to improve the genealogy experience, and whether or not you should seek out other uses of artificial intelligence for your own genealogy research. (10/9, virtual)

***Texas Veterans Hall of Fame Museum & Remember Them Forever Program*** with Gary Steele (11/13)

***Choosing Genealogy Services and Software*** with Tony Hanson

Genealogy has rapidly evolved from a paper-based hobby into a multi-billion-dollar industry. Family history researchers can now choose from a wide range of products and services designed to create family trees, locate records of interest, and identify DNA relationships.

This presentation will provide a high-level overview of the capabilities offered by online genealogical services, genetic DNA testing services and family tree software providers with the goal of helping participants make informed choices from among the many products and services currently available. (1/8/2026)

***Avoiding Bias: Consider All the Possibilities*** with Barbara Coakley

Unrecognized bias can lead genealogists astray—resulting in inaccurate conclusions and incomplete family stories. We'll explore how cognitive bias creeps into genealogical research and the behaviors that can skew results. You'll learn how to combat bias using proven tools such as the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS), a consistent research process, and comprehensive source checklists. Real-world case studies will illustrate how to spot and correct for bias and ensure conclusions are built on a foundation of sound evidence. (2/12/2026)

*March—May Programs TBA*

## MINUTES (CONTINUED)

- The next general DCGS meeting is Sept. 11, 2025; the new president will have an executive board meeting this summer.
- Remember that there is a dues increase for 2025-2026; dues will be \$25 per member and \$35 per couple.
- Bob asked if there were any Mac users who needed questions answered; let him know and he'll put you in touch with each other.
- Anyone interested in helping with programming or the scholarship committee should see Stacie Briggs, vice president of programming. One member of these committees is stepping down so additional staff is much-needed.

Laura Douglas announced the new conference room has been completed and is available for small groups. It seats about 14 people so keep it in mind for committee meetings.

Stacie Briggs asked that anyone who has program ideas should email her in the next couple weeks. She then introduced the program for this meeting, Member Discoveries.

President Lane thanked the presenters for great stories and achievements. Eileen reminded everyone that they should also write down their own stories, including the details that make stories come alive.

President Lane delivered his last words and asked for assistance in putting away the tables and chairs. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

*—Respectfully Submitted  
by Eileen O'Neill, Secretary*





## MEMBERCONNECT: NEWS, TIPS, & RESOURCES

Ever wonder what that old disease would be called today or what the cure was? Curious about historical medical terms? Check out these resources from [Cyndi's List](#):

- ◆ Colonial Diseases and Cures—<https://homepages.rootsweb.com/~sam/disease.html>
- ◆ Archaic Medical Terms—<http://bakers-world.com/page38/index.php>
- ◆ Old Disease Names and Their Modern Definitions—<http://www.disease.pricklytree.co.uk/>
- ◆ Forgotten Medical Cures—<https://web.archive.org/web/20100202110027/http://www.forgottenmedicalcures.com:80/index.html>
- ◆ International Classification of Diseases—<http://www.wolfbane.com/icd/index.html>
- ◆ Glossary of Old Medical Terms Used in the 18th & 19th Century—<https://www.thornber.net/medicine/html/medgloss.html>
- ◆ Medical Terminology & Diseases—<http://genealogy-quest.com/glossary-terms/diseases/>

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW DUE



Image: Raupizel

September 11 is the deadline to apply for the 2025-26 round of the **Diana Pearson White Continuing Genealogical Education Scholarship**. The scholarship 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 \$300 is available; more than one recipient may be chosen if funds allow. Recipient(s) will be announced at the October 2025 meeting. For applications or questions, email [presidentdcgs@gmail.com](mailto:presidentdcgs@gmail.com).



## TREASURER'S REPORTS

### Report for Month of April 2025

<b>Balance—April 1, 2025</b>		<b>\$3,070.05</b>
<b>Deposits</b> —no activity	\$0.00	
<b>Total Deposits</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Nat'l Genealogical Society Dues	\$110.00	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<b>\$110.00</b>
<b>Balance April 30, 2025</b>		<b>\$2,960.05</b>

### Report for Month of May 2025

<b>Balance—May 1, 2025</b>		<b>\$2,960.05</b>
<b>Deposits</b> —Dues, Scholarship Funds	\$420.00	
<b>Total Deposits</b>		<b>\$420.00</b>
<b>Disbursements</b> —no activity	\$0.00	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Balance May 31, 2025</b>		<b>\$3,380.05</b>

### Report for Month of June 2025

<b>Balance—June 1, 2025</b>		<b>\$3,380.05</b>
<b>Deposits</b> —Dues	\$195.00	
<b>Total Deposits</b>		<b>\$195.00</b>
<b>Disbursements</b> —no activity	\$0.00	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Balance June 30, 2025</b>		<b>\$3,575.05</b>

### Report for Month of July 2025

<b>Balance—July 1, 2025</b>		<b>\$3,575.05</b>
<b>Deposits</b> —no activity	\$0.00	
<b>Total Deposits</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Disbursements</b> —no activity	\$0.00	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Balance July 31, 2025</b>		<b>\$3,575.05</b>



## ROOTS WRITERS BEGIN MEETING



*Joan Anderson and Sandra Robertson collaborate at the July Roots Writers meeting.*



*Charles Robertson shared a photo of his father, the subject of his writing.*

*Photos: Beth Leggieri*

**Roots Writers**—the new DCGS special interest group (SIG)—will continue meeting in the fall after a promising start over the summer.

Roots Writers is a monthly gathering of DCGS members to support one another's calling to put our ancestral history or our personal stories into writing. Meetings are the third Wednesday of the month from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Zera's Coffee, 420 E. McKinney in Denton.

Roots Writers collaborate in good faith by:

- ♦ honoring and encouraging one another's contributions
- ♦ allowing all participants to contribute within the specified meeting time.

Members are encouraged to come early or linger over lunch to continue the conversation and brainstorming. Zera's Coffee provides a creative and respectful environment with ample parking (on the east side only please), barista-style coffee and tea, and a selection fresh breakfast/lunch items and desserts.

# Roots Writers

Denton County Genealogical Society's  
Collaborative Writing Group

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

11:00 a.m. – noon  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
Zera's Coffee and Events  
420 E. McKinney Street, Denton

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

For info: [Librariandcgs@gmail.com](mailto:Librariandcgs@gmail.com)



# ANCESTOR QUESTION OF THE MONTH

***“What exciting discoveries did you make this summer?”***



*The Fork Church (Photo: B. Leggieri)*

**Beth Leggieri** writes, “What drove your initial foray into ancestral history? My journey began with curiosity about my ancestors’ religious affiliations over the centuries.

Up to this summer I’d identified several extant ancestral churches. I physically visited two and attended virtual services at two others. It is no small thing to share in Sunday morning services held in the same structures where my ancestors once physically stood to sing, sat during the sermon, and knelt in prayer.

This summer I found yet another extant church to extend my Virginia lineage. The Church of England’s vestry records for St. Paul’s Parish document the part my 7th great-grandfather, James Glen(n), (1692-1762), played in constructing the initial wooden building of Fork Church in the western colonial Virginia frontier, in then New Kent County, near Ashland, Virginia.

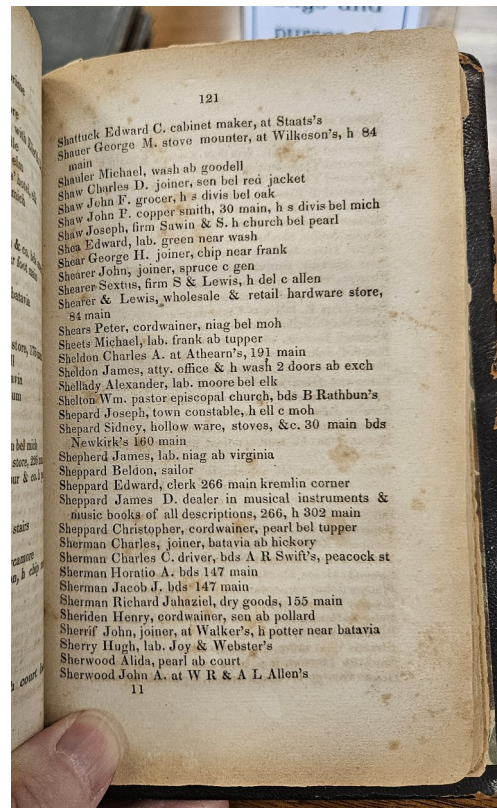
1719: James Glen(n) witnessed land proceessioning, including that of his brother, John Glen(n)

1723: The church was indebted to James Glen(n) for railing the Fork Church. He was paid in 2500 C of tobacco, the common method to pay debts

1724: Last payment of 700 C of tobacco for ‘railing ye Fork Church, provided he give bond to keep the rails up, til the posts rot in ye ground.’

The wooden building burned, replaced by 1740 with the brick edifice. Surviving parish and county changes, fire, a national revolution, and a civil war, Fork Church has served Hanover County residents for over 300 years. Parishioners include both the notable and the less notable whose descendants today strive to identify and record their journeys.”

“Imagine holding a 188--year old city directory in your hands,” writes **Nancy Gilbride Casey**. “The pages are yellowed, the binding is iffy, and you wonder if the book will disintegrate as you turn the pages. That was my experience this summer as I discovered my 4x great-grandfather Henry Sheridan in the 1837 Buffalo city directory on a visit to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. Henry was listed as a ‘cordwainer,’ an outdated term for a shoemaker. This is the earliest evidence I have of any of my family lines in the U.S., so it was really exciting. I was able to find Henry in Buffalo directories from 1837-1851, when the Sheridan family moved to North Evans, New York, where he continued to work as a shoemaker.”



*Henry Sheridan's entry is fifth from bottom in this 1837 Buffalo city directory. (Photo: N. Casey)*

(See “Summer,” p. 8)

## SUMMER (CONTINUED)



*Titus Ek is researching the subject of this family photo found in the box he received from his granddad.*

**Tina Ek** and son **Titus Ek** write, "This summer we traveled to visit my father and Titus' granddad, Michael (Mike) Tucker, in the Texas Hill Country. He showed us boxes of family photos and letters from my great-great grandmother, May Augusta Howell Loupot. It turns out the photos and letters were of/from many of the ancestors we'd been researching! The photos spanned generations, the earliest documenting the family's journey as pioneers of Central Texas in the mid-to-late 19th century, life in Austin and Dallas, as well as her brother Ben Howell's tour in Guam with the Navy around 1908. We've barely scratched the surface on the correspondence, financial ledgers, and brochures from the turn of the century, such as The 1904 World's Fair. Titus was entrusted to return to Denton with one of the boxes to continue researching and labeling photos, identifying who, when, and where possible. It was such a special trip, reconnecting with Granddad and 'meeting' so many who had been only names in a pedigree chart!"

**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**



### ***DCGS News Seeks New Editor***

**DCGS News** is seeking a new editor for 2026-27. Contribute your talents and vision to the next phase of **DCGS News**. As editor, you can bring your new ideas, creative design, or a fresh look to the publication...or keep it just as is. Volunteer must have some familiarity with Publisher.

Please contact Nancy Gilbride Casey to discuss training over the course of this year. Email [newsletterdcgs@gmail.com](mailto:newsletterdcgs@gmail.com) for more information.



## FALL LIBRARY EVENTS & NEWS



### **Friday, September 26 - 11 a.m., Emily Fowler Central Library**

Join us for a group that explores genealogical research through discussion of articles published in the TxSGS Journal *Stirpes*. As a registrant, you will receive the focus article and a list of questions to guide our conversation. This group is for anyone interested in learning more about genealogical research and the historical context of their family history. The featured article for September is "Finding Individuals in Community Histories," by Hannah Kubacak, published September 2024, pages 13-18. Registration opens Friday, September 12 and closes Thursday, September 25 at <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>.

### ***New Genealogy Books on the Shelves***

*Unlocking the Power of Heritage Journaling: Your Guide to Writing Personal and Family History* by Dovie Archer

*Daily Life in the United States, 1920-1940: How Americans Lived Through the 'Roaring Twenties' and the Great Depression* by David E. Kyvig

*Texas Takes Shape: A History in Maps from the General Land Office* by Mark Lambert

*Your Stripped Bare Guide to Citing & Using History Sources* by Elizabeth Shown Mills

*A History of the New York Juvenile Asylum and Its Orphan Trains: Six Volumes* by Clark Kidder



**2025 STATEWIDE**

## **GENEALOGY WORKSHOP**

**Friday, October 17, 2025**

We need volunteers to help with the annual Genealogy Workshop (formerly the Lock-In). Volunteers will monitor classes and help with one-on-one research questions. You do not have to stay for the entire day, times are flexible.

Contact Laura Douglas if you would like to volunteer.  
Laura.Douglas@cityofdenton.com or (940)349-8749

## ***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](mailto:membershipdcgs@gmail.com).



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

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