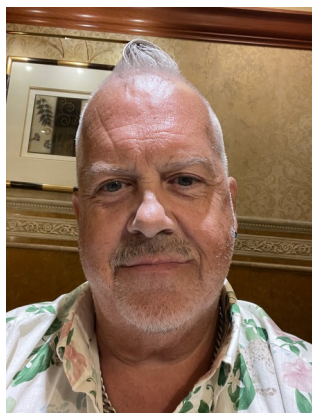


DCGS News

THOMAS MACENTEE TO PRESENT AI PROGRAM, OCT. 9TH



While artificial intelligence—aka AI—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, AI will permeate almost every aspect of business and society.

Thomas MacEntee will explore the use of AI in genealogy research in his virtual presentation **“AI and Genealogy: Trouble Ahead?”** on Thursday, October

9, at the Denton County Genealogical Society’s monthly meeting. This meeting will be hybrid, with the presenter joining us remotely. Attendees will gather at the Emily Fowler Central Library meeting room, 502 Oakland Street in Denton. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., with a brief business meeting at 7 p.m., followed by the presentation. Visitors are welcome.

Thomas will explain how AI is currently being used to improve the genealogical experience, and whether or not you should seek out other uses of artificial intelligence for your own research.

Thomas MacEntee is a professional genealogist specializing in the use of technology and social media to improve genealogical research and as a means of interacting with others in the family history community. He has taught over 1,000 in-person and virtual genealogy lectures since 2010, served on the boards of many genealogical societies, organized a group of over 1,000 genealogy bloggers, and helped researchers save money on genealogy products and services through Genealogy Bargains.



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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/m1/1/2494/m1/1/>; 2 May 2023); citing Denton Public Library.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Eileen O'Neill

Looking at our family trees, we see names, dates, places and relationships. Often it is advantageous to create a locality guide for the areas in which our ancestors lived; DCGS has had speakers discuss locality guides in the past.

Locality guides not only help with geography but also with finding land and property records. For example, finding out about the changes in county boundaries over time can aid us in finding records in the correct courthouse. I have ancestors who lived in Emanuel County, Georgia, but that land was originally Montgomery and Bulloch Counties. My ancestors didn't move but the counties were split and reorganized.

Still, these are fairly "dry facts." To go beyond the facts and give those in our trees life, look into the social history of the area at the time your ancestors lived there. What holidays were celebrated and how? Were there any unique customs, foods, or naming traditions that carried over from the old country? Turn your tree facts into real people. Imagine what our descendants might think of our little burg Denton if they discover some Denton facts in the future, including that Denton is known as "little d" by some and is the Halloween capital of Texas (designated by the Texas legislature)! Happy October!

Don't forget some interesting events coming up. Be sure to check the genealogy offerings in the Emily Fowler Library: the Genealogy Workshop on Oct. 17 and Connections on Oct. 24. (see pages 8-9 for more info). And the Texas State Genealogical Society's annual family history conference is Nov. 7-8. Check their website for more information.

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

Visit DCGS online



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Website

www.genealogydentontexas.org

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Submissions always welcome at
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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.

SEPTEMBER 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc., Sept. 11, 2025 minutes

The meeting was called to order by Bob Lane at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Lane was acting as president due to the absence of the president and vice president. Mr. Lane led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reports by Officers

Membership—Marian Carroll introduced visitors Angelina Brown and Kathy Myers.

Secretary—Bob Lane (for Eileen O'Neill) - Minutes of the May meeting are corrected as follows: Under Announcements, "Sandra Roberts" is corrected to read "Sandra Robertson." With no other corrections noted, the minutes are approved as corrected.

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

Social/Hospitality—Chair Joan Anderson brought the treats for this meeting. Others are encouraged to volunteer for bringing treats. Be sure to coordinate with Joan.

Librarian—Laura Douglas announced:

Dawn Terrizzi is a new librarian for Special Collections at Emily Fowler.

Genealogy Workshop (and Halloween Denton) will be Oct 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Newsletter—Editor Nancy Gilbride Casey announced:

Articles are needed for future newsletters. Please submit items of general or specific interest.

Responses to the Ancestor Question of the Month have been declining. Be sure to submit your responses to this question in order to keep this as an active, ongoing feature.

Volunteers are needed to assist with five meeting recap articles for *DCGS News*. If you are interested, please contact me.

This is my last year as editor of *DCGS News*. I'm looking for one or more volunteers to train alongside me this year in order to take over next year. Contact me if interested.

Scholarship for Genealogical Education

President O'Neill appointed a panel of three judges to review the applications for the Diana Pearson White Continuing Genealogical Education Scholarship. They are Diana White, Sandra Robertson, and Linda Lane as panel chair. They will make the announcement of awards at the October 9 meeting.

New Business

Beth Leggieri discussed Roots Writers as a basis and learning tool for storytelling. It has been established that storytelling boosts cognitive memory which is a recognized method for promoting overall health. See the handout available at the membership table for more information; note the last page regarding healthy aging.

Announcements

From President O'Neill: "We need people to volunteer to help some of the officers, especially membership and newsletter. DCGS works for all of us; we all need to work to keep our society healthy and vibrant. Please contact Marian or Nancy if you can help."

Bob Lane announced the next DCGS Meeting on October 9, 2025.

Program

Bob Lane introduced the speaker for tonight, Paula Perkins with her program, "TXGenWeb to USGenWeb Project ® - Free Genealogy Resources at Your Fingertips." The presentation was followed by audience questions. Bob Lane thanked the speaker for the informative presentation and encouragement for genealogical study.

President O'Neill's Last Word "Knowing your generational story firms the ground upon which you stand. It makes your life, your struggles, and triumphs, bigger than your lone existence. It connects you to a grand plotline." Cicely Tyson, actress and author from *Just as I Am*.

Assistance is requested to return tables and chairs for library use.

Because there is no more business, this meeting is adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

—Respectfully Submitted by Robert Lane, Secretary

EXPLORING GENEALOGY WITH USGENWEB

By Arthur Medrano

At the September Denton County Genealogical Society meeting, Paula Perkins—president of the Collin County Genealogical Society—delivered an insightful presentation on the TXGenWeb and its connection to the broader USGenWeb Project. Her talk highlighted the current status and evolving capabilities of this often-overlooked online resource, which offers a treasure trove of genealogical information—all freely accessible to the public.

Originally hosted on the ROOTSWEB platform, the USGenWeb Project has grown into a robust, community-supported network of over 3,000 linked websites. Each site is maintained by dedicated volunteers and small teams, with a focus on county-level research across the United States. These sites offer a wide range of materials, including: birth, marriage, and obituary records; community and family histories; special

research projects; historical maps and archival documents; searchable databases; and much more.

All Texas and county-level resources can be accessed through the [USGenWeb homepage](#), making it a valuable starting point for anyone exploring their family roots.

If you haven't yet explored the USGenWeb Project, now is a great time to dive in and see what it can offer for your personal research. And if you're passionate about genealogy and want to give back, consider volunteering to help maintain a county page or contribute local records. The USGenWeb community is always eager to welcome new supporters who share a love of history and heritage.

The author used Microsoft Copilot to improve the organization and readability of this article.



[TXGenWeb](#) is a member of the USGenWeb Project. (Graphic used with permission.)

MEMBERCONNECT: NEWS, TIPS, & RESOURCES

Nancy Gilbride Casey shares, “I’ve had great success using various **GenWeb** projects.

I discovered cemetery transcriptions for St. Cecilia Catholic Cemetery in Sheldon, Wyoming, New York, for several of my Baker ancestors on the [NYGenWeb](#). This was particularly helpful because though the stones are no longer visible today, the transcriptions were put on the NYGenWeb page by volunteers based on transcriptions done in the 1950s and 1970s when the

stones were visible and readable.

Another example: The [OntarioGenWeb](#)’s ‘[Brief Historical Timeline](#)’ was helpful in putting my Canadian ancestors’ lives into context.

Lastly, ‘[Tennessee Land Terminology](#)’ on [TNGenWeb](#) helped me learn the meaning of several land surveying terms used in the 1800s and how they might have applied to my husband’s Casey family’s land transactions.”

ANCESTOR QUESTION OF THE MONTH

“Share a Halloween memory, ghostly incident, favorite costume, etc.”

*Answers to this month’s question are great examples of sharing our own memories — after all, **we** are part of our future family history. We’ve got ghostly happenings, creepy crawlies, mischievous trick-or-treaters, memorable costumes, and more. Read on...*



Rawpixel

Linda Lane shares, “On a walking tour in New Orleans, the guide took us up to the gate of a famous cemetery in the Garden District and told us that guided tours were no longer allowed inside because certain influential people believed visitors were disrespectful of the site. Knowing that this was a location famous for some unusual and possibly ghoulish experiences, we were all somewhat disappointed. I was standing near one of the concrete and rock pillars of the gate entrance. Bob suggested to me that I just might want to move a bit away toward the street. I asked why. He pointed. Not one foot away was a large slug, about two inches long. It was stretching out toward me. If, indeed, it had succeeded, I would certainly have become disrespectful of the site, as I would have screamed a stream of obscenities as I shimmied and shook and ran away.”



Kathy Lawrence

Kathy Lawrence writes, “During a history and genealogy trip to Virginia in the autumn of 2024, I attended an evening ghost tour in Fredericksburg. As we walked though the historic portions of downtown, our guide, dressed in period clothing and carrying a lantern (talk about atmosphere!), regaled us with stories about the history of the city and the lives of the inhabitants. Several locations felt eerie, especially Masonic Lodge No. 4 (Lafayette visited the lodge in 1824). Masonic buildings have been included in a number of ghost tours I have taken and are frequently believed to be haunted. Chillingly, while photographing the former Female Charity School established in 1802, what appears to be an orb can be seen in my photo (that side of the building is solely brick- there are no light fixtures)... was it a spirit from beyond?”

ANCESTOR QUESTION OF THE MONTH (CONT.)



Wikimedia Commons

Mary Tate writes, “A friend Margie Abbe and I were walking the cemetery at Malakoff, Texas, and watching a storm move in from the west. We knew we had little time before the deluge. I bypassed the first entry to the cemetery and took the second, parking in the middle of the burials. She went one way and I went another looking for my Cotten relatives I knew to be buried there. At the very last minute, I came upon the stones and had just enough time to copy down the data (This was before cell phones with cameras!) and get back to the car. It was pouring rain by the time we exited the cemetery.

On another occasion, Margie couldn't go with me but asked me to look for family members buried in Montague, Texas. I worked in the courthouse most of the day and drove to the cemetery, finding it was quite large on both sides of the highway. What to do? I mentally flipped a coin, turned right and began reading stones looking for Margie's names. There they were!

I do believe I've had help from the other side on more than just these two occasions!”



Rawpixel

“Some of my favorite Halloween memories revolve around costumes,” writes **Nancy Gilbride Casey**. “I attended Catholic school, where we wore uniforms. Any time I could dress up in any other clothes, particularly at Halloween, it was always a treat. I frequently wanted to be a ‘gypsy,’ involving lots and lots of my grandmother’s colorful beaded necklaces, earrings, and bracelets, as well as a headscarf, long skirt, hip sash, and black vest. And, lots of heavy makeup!

My mother was an expert costume maker as well. She made robot costumes out of cardboard boxes and tin foil for my two brothers. She raided our dad’s work bench for gauges and gizmos to add to them. After my older brother grew out of the costume, she turned the smaller robot into a girl robot costume for my sister to wear, by adding an apron and an orange mop for the hair. Those costumes were hits in the neighborhood.”

Missy McCormick remembers, “As a child, I recall stopping by the White House (replica in San Antonio near my home) for Halloween. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rainey Manion built the home in 1965 as a ‘50-per cent scale of the White House.’ I recall my parents telling me he was friends with LBJ. One year, I remember roaming the streets for Halloween with a group of about six children – we received a HUGE Hershey bar from Mr. and Mrs. Manion. We went on to a few more houses and then concocted a scheme to see if we could get another bar. We swapped portions of our costumes ‘to look different than earlier.’ We went back, rang the doorbell, and Mrs. Manion laughed as she gave us more bars and said ‘That should be enough!’”



YOU'RE INVITED

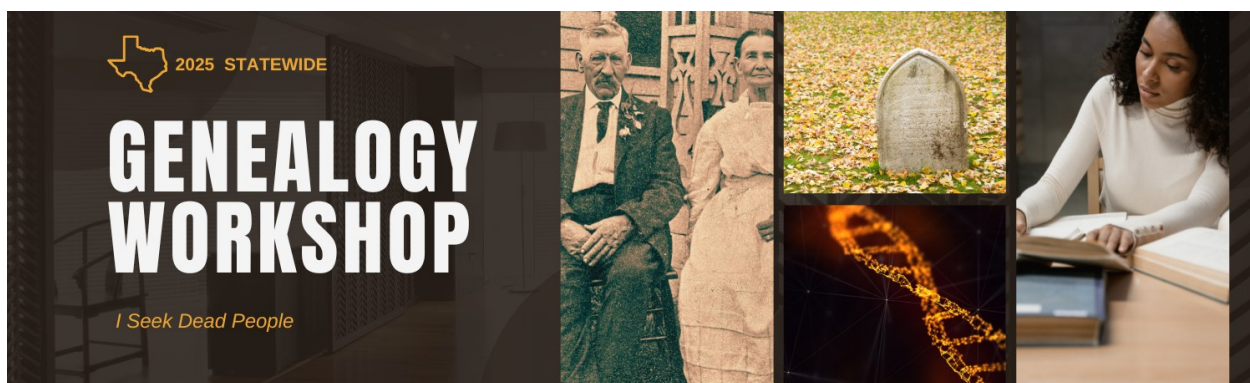
Come to **Roots Writers** on Wednesday, October 15, 11 a.m. to noon, at [Zera Coffee in Denton](#), to discuss your ancestral writing projects or to be encouraged in how to begin writing about yourself or an ancestor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Report for Month of August 2025

Balance—August 1, 2025		\$3,575.05
Deposits Dues	\$25.00	
Total Deposits		\$25.00
Disbursements		
None	\$0.00	
Total Disbursements		\$0.00
Balance August 31, 2025		\$3,600.05

—Respectfully Submitted, Linda Lane, Treasurer



Family History Month and Halloween spirit align for “I Seek Dead People,” a genealogy workshop sponsored by the DPL and the Denton County Genealogical Society in October.

The free event, to be held on Friday, October 17, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Emily Fowler Library, features a full day of recorded genealogy webinars by noted presenters from around Texas and across the country. Eight presentations will be offered throughout the day.

Participants can come-and-go, stay for the full day, or view the programs from the comfort of their own home. In-person participants will gather in the Emily Fowler Central Library’s meeting room, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, to view the webinars. Librarians and volunteers will be available to provide one-on-one help for those attending in person with their genealogical questions; tours of Special Collections will round out the day. At-home participants will receive a link to view the webinars via email 24 hours prior to the event.

This event is co-sponsored by the Waco-McLennan County Library’s Genealogy Center and the Central Texas Genealogical Society. This is DPL/DCGS’s 24th year participating in the annual lock-in event, which will also be featured in Denton’s Halloween festivities.

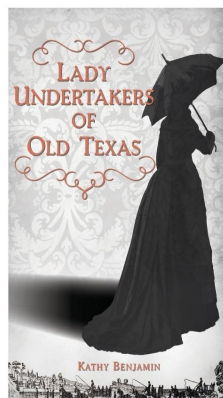
[Follow this link](#) or call 940-349-8749 to register for this FREE event.

The workshop schedule:

- 9:00 a.m. **From Names to Narratives: A Simple Guide to Writing**, Hannah Kubacak, librarian from the Waco-McLennan County Library’s Genealogy Center

- 10:00 a.m. **Following a Civil Case Through Documents Filed in Court**, J. Mark Lowe, FUGA, Ky-Tn Research Associates researcher
- 11:00 a.m. **Jakten - Researching Your Scandinavian Ancestors**, Carl Smith, manager of the Family History Research Center - Clayton Library Campus
- 11:50 a.m. *Lunch on Your Own*
- 12:50 p.m. **The Stories of Our Lives: Beginning Your Family History**, Curt Witcher, director of Special Collections at the Allen County Public Library
- 2:25 p.m. **Research Road Trips: Productive for You, Fun for Family**, Jessica Horne Collins, president of the Clayton Library Friends
- 3:30 p.m. **Resources for New Orleans Area Genealogical Research**, Stephen Stuart, president of the Genealogical Research Society of New Orleans
- 4:35 p.m. **Family Trees Get Smart: AI as Your Genealogy Assistant**, Sherri Taggart Ahmadzadeh, chief genealogist at Family Tree Tracer, LLC
- 5:40 p.m. **All in the Family: Using Collateral Research to Build Your Family Tree**, Sandra Crowley, director of development for the Texas State Genealogical Society

LIBRARY NEWS YOU CAN USE: BOOKS, EVENTS, NEW STAFF, AND MORE



Lady Undertakers of Old Texas Peeks Behind Occupation Curtain

October is the month where minds turn towards the otherworldly: ghosts, goblins, cemeteries, haunted houses—and yes, death.

Death is surrounded these days by an amazing array of services for the bereaved. One of the first tasks family members must confront is taking care of the deceased's body. No worries, call the local funeral home.

But it wasn't always so. In centuries past, women primarily took care of the deceased and prepared their bodies for burial. It was seen as a natural outgrowth of their domestic duties, where cleaning, washing, sewing, and family care were a woman's world.

In Lady Undertakers of Old Texas (The History Press, 2023), author Kathy Benjamin takes readers on a fascinating journey through the changing roles of women in death care before and after the Civil War and into the 20th century...

Continue reading on the **Denton Public Library's Genealogy and Family History** blog at <https://tinyurl.com/mr24n6uh>

CONNECTIONS

Friday, October 24 - 11 a.m., Emily Fowler Central Library

Join a lively discussion of a genealogy article featured in the TxSGS Journal *Stirpes*. The October focus article is "Magic Wills," by our own Emily Coffman Richardson. Registrants will receive an email with an access link to the feature article, discussion questions, and a topic resource list.

Registration opens Friday, Oct. 10, 12 noon, at <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>.



Meet the New Special Collections Librarian

Dawn Terrizzi has been with the Denton Public Library for ten years as the adult services librarian and is the newest member of DPL's Special Collections department. She lives in Denton with her husband, two wonderful daughters, two silly dogs, and a little colony of sea monkeys. Dawn grew up in the Allegheny range of the Appalachian Mountains of Pennsylvania, the region her great-grandparents settled in after migrating to the United States from Poland and Italy in the early twentieth century. She loves to travel and has a deep respect for the earth and all living things. Her favorite pastimes include sketching, keeping a variety of journals, and reading widely.

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

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