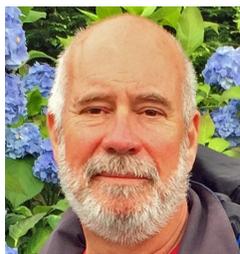


DCGS News

HANSON TO PRESENT “CHOOSING GENEALOGY SERVICES & SOFTWARE” AT JAN. MEETING



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.

Hanson will present “Choosing Genealogy Services & Software” at the Denton County Genealogical Society’s monthly meeting, Thursday, January 8th. 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.

Hanson’s 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 the many products and services that are currently available.

Tony Hanson earned degrees in electrical engineering and telecommunications and is now retired following a 32-year career as a manager with AT&T. He has been researching his family for 24 years. He has held numerous positions on the board of directors of the Dallas Genealogical Society and served as the director of membership for the Texas State Genealogical Society from 2019 to 2024.

Tony has received numerous awards from the Dallas Genealogical Society, including Volunteer of the Year, Heritage Preservation, Award of Merit, and Presidents Special Award, and has received the Texas State Genealogical Society’s Volunteer of the Year Award and Presidential Citations, all recognizing his many contributions of time and talent.



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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/meta1/12494/m1/1/>; 2 May 2023); citing Denton Public Library.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Eileen O'Neill

This issue's Ancestor Question of the Month got me thinking about goals for 2026. One of mine is dealing with conflicting records.

I have a few basic suggestions which may be helpful (some drawn from *The Irish Family Genealogist* newsletter). There are many reasons discrepancies exist: different records may emphasize different details; time lapses increase memory lapses; second-hand information may vary; the individual concerned could falsify

details from one record to another, etc.

I'm investigating ancestors living around 1800 who have conflicting records, including trying to determine which person actually belongs in my tree (far too many common names). There have been vigorous debates on various family tree sites over which person is the "right" one. Suggestions on resolving these debates include setting up timelines including geographic locations and closely examining any family, friends, and neighbors that are mentioned in documents. Do they track across time?

In documenting everything we must make sure the records themselves are reliable. Death records, for example, may not be reliable if the person giving the information didn't know the accurate birth date and place. (My grandfather listed his own father's birthplace as Ireland – not very helpful!) It's important to search for a variety of records. We've heard at past DCGS meetings about land and tax records, for instance, that may prove very enlightening and help resolve conflicts. DNA results may help. I've mentioned before about finding a second cousin through DNA which helped solve a long-standing family mystery. Learning more about evaluating results can be done through [Ancestry Academy](#) and the [FamilySearch Research Wiki](#).

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

Visit DCGS online



Facebook

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Website

www.genealogydentontexas.org

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

Submissions always welcome at
newsletterdcs@gmail.com.

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Laura Douglas, Kathy Lawrence

DCGS News has been honored as the 1st place winner in the 2023, 2024, and 2025 Texas State Genealogical Society Writing Awards, Partner Society Publications category.

DCGS NEWS WINS 2025 TOP NEWSLETTER PRIZE

It's a 3-peat! **DCGS News** took top honors for a third year running at last month's Texas State Genealogical Society Writing Awards competition in the Partner Society publication category. This year's competition looked at the society's 2024-2025 newsletters. The award includes a \$100 cash prize to Denton County Genealogical Society and a certificate.

Here's what some of the judges had to say: "I commend your officers, members, and contributors. It takes a village in genealogy, and your village is spot on....Your news is well-rounded: mentioning upcoming society and museum events in other areas of the state; news and programs at your library, as well as new

books; and links to helpful sites. Your articles are interesting and I like that you encourage members to share their discoveries."

Another wrote, "I like the fact that you list the names of your new members in the newsletter. This is a nice gesture to help them feel welcome. Your programs feature interesting and useful research topics that should appeal to all levels of researchers."

Another noted, "The recap of past programs is very helpful in showing readers what they missed and getting them excited to attend future offerings. The Ancestor Question of the Month segment is wonderful. It gets members writing about their genealogical finds..."

As one judge rightly noted, "it takes a village," and producing the newsletter certainly relies on our village! Thank you to each of the following DCGS members for contributing in some way to the 2024-25 newsletters to make **DCGS News** such an outstanding publication: **Stacie Briggs, Laura Douglas, Linda Hillyer Lane, Kathy Lawrence, Beth Leggieri, Minna Marinko, Missy McCormick, Arthur Medrano, Eileen O'Neill, Ginny Richards, Emily Richardson, Charles Robertson, Sandra Robertson, Melissa Sampson, Fran Shurtleff, Donna Spears, Mary Tate, Vickie Whitfield, and John Windsor.** A special thank you to **Laura Douglas** for creating graphics, and to **Beth Leggieri** and **Kathy Lawrence** for proofreading help. This award belongs to each of you!



Image: rawpixel.com

DCGS Member Field Trip!

Texas Veterans Hall of Fame Museum

Saturday, Jan. 17th, 10 a.m.

Details at the January meeting.



NOVEMBER 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc, Nov. 13, 2025 Minutes.

Call to Order—President O’Neill, 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance—President O’Neill

Membership—Marian Carroll introduced guests LeJean and Gary Steele, and Fran and Gary Green.

Secretary—Bob Lane noted the minutes for the Oct. 9 meeting were published in the newsletter. Any corrections? There were 5 members present on Zoom, not 3. If there are no other corrections, the minutes are approved with corrections noted.

Treasurer—Linda Lane stated the financial report was published in the newsletter. The report will be filed for audit.

Social—Joan Anderson was recognized for preparing treats and thanked those who helped with setup.

Librarian—Laura Douglas mentioned scheduled events/presentations in Emily Fowler Library as listed on the library website calendar.

New Business

- President O’Neill noted the Lewisville Library is hosting a StoryCorps Mobile Tour and Preserving Stories Workshop on December 5-8. StoryCorps records individual stories of family life and events for preservation. See the Lewisville Public Library for more information.
- We do not have a meeting scheduled in December so our next DCGS meeting will be on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. here in Emily Fowler Library.

Announcements

- President O’Neill mentioned we need volunteers to serve as officers of the society, as some officers are nearing the end of their terms. Volunteers are essential for the success of the society. Please consider accepting an officer position.
- Kathi Coatney brought in a wonderful quilt that was featured in the newsletter. She explained the significance of the quilt.
- Stacie Briggs announced the Family History Discovery Day at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 3000 Old North Road, Denton, on Saturday, January 31, 8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Program—Vice President Stacie Briggs introduced the speaker for this evening, Gary Steele, president and founder of the Texas Veterans Hall of Fame. He discussed the TVHOF museum in Denton and encouraged all to visit the museum and to recognize the meaning of Memorial Day and Veterans Day as opportunities to honor our veterans. President O’Neill thanked Mr. Steele for his presentation and encouragement.

President’s Last Word, from that prolific writer Unknown: “I am bound to them though I cannot look into their eyes or hear their voices. I honor their history. I cherish their lives. I will tell their story. I will remember them for I am the result of the very love, struggle, sacrifice and journey of thousands.”

Please help put chairs and tables back in place.

President O’Neill adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

—*Respectfully Submitted by Robert Lane,
Secretary*

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTS IMMIGRATION RESEARCH



Image: rawpixel.com

By Nancy Gilbride Casey

I have frequently focused on immigration in my family history research. Three of my four sets of great-grandparents immigrated between 1891-1910, with other immigrant arrivals as far back as 1845. My Belgian, Irish, and German ancestors first settled in New York state and so I was especially interested in the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society's online course "Tracing Immigrant Ancestors to New York, 1780-1924—The Records." Receiving one of the ***Diana Pearson White Continuing Genealogical Education Scholarship*** in October made attending this virtual course possible, and I am most grateful.

I completed the five-session online course on November 19th, and it was well worth my time. Each 35-40 minute webinar focused on a different topic regarding immigration: historical overview; clues in everyday records; diving into customs and passenger lists; naturalization records in New York and beyond; and telling the immigrant story. Each session was accompanied by an extensive handout. I downloaded these and highlighted/commented on the PDF with notes for future reference as I viewed each webinar.

The Historical Overview handout was "worth the price of admission," as it listed important events in immigration history chronologically. I love to add historical events when creating an ancestor's timeline, as any one might shed light on choices they made, situations they faced, or global context that affected them. This immigration chronology will help make that task easier for me.

Each handout also included a bibliography for future reference. In particular I noted *Tracing Immigrants through the Port of New York* by Anne Buitter and the *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*; they've been added to my reading list. (And both are available in DPL's Special Collections!).

I am still digesting all that I learned in this course. One thing is certain, however: I will be referring to these handouts as I continue to document the stories of my immigrant ancestors.

Learn more about the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society's course offerings here: <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/new-york-family-history-school>. And don't forget to apply for next year's scholarship!

Save the Date!

Friday, April 24, 11 a.m.

DCGS Member Field Trip

THE NATIONAL
ARCHIVES AT
FORT WORTH

Details coming soon...

ANCESTOR QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Sandra Robertson suggested this question to start off our New Year:

“What task or question is at the top of your genealogy bucket list for 2026?”

Here are our members’ answers!

P.S. If you can help any of our members with their goals/tasks, be sure to let them know!



Mary Tate writes, “My fall “task” was to see how many DAR supplemental lines I could find. With Minna Marinko’s expertise, we’ve sent in two supplemental applications and have two almost ready to send. I have two more on the back burner, so they will be part of next year’s assignment. For next year, I think I will refocus on my husband’s tree and try once more to determine where John Tate came from in England in 1832. I also discovered some serious errors on FamilySearch involving John Tate’s family, and I must see about correcting those. Of course, John’s English wife Mary is still unidentified (because I suspect they married on this side of the pond, probably in Pennsylvania). I have a few other clues to pursue.”

Kathy Lawrence has some big plans! “The new year will mark a significant and exciting shift for me in my genealogical endeavors! I will be focusing on at least three branches of my family with very early roots in Colonial America, with at least two lines dating back to the 1600s. As part of my preparation, I have joined the [Maryland](#) and [Virginia](#) state genealogical societies, in addition to the [North Carolina](#) society. Along with my new research activities, I will be writing more about my findings and am currently preparing a template to facilitate the writing/documentation process. My new focus has already begun in gangbuster fashion! While at Houston’s Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus over Thanksgiving, I located a family land record dated exactly 329 years ago to the day- November 24, 1696. Talk about a thrill!”



“At the top of my list for next year is learning more,” writes **Stacie Briggs**. “I have added studying two days a week to my calendar. I have some areas that I



am weak in and I want to work on them. I am also going back through my trees and looking for newbie mistakes I made and fixing them. I will continue with my writing, it will always be high on my to-do list.”

Sandra Robertson shares, “I have enjoyed creating and adding to my family tree. But in 2026 I want to be a preserver of family history and look forward. My goal for the year is to preserve/record/write what is in my memory. Photographs need to be scanned and labelled. Items in boxes need to be reviewed. Scrapbooks need to be preserved.



I want to go deep into the lives of the family and ancestors I remember and those who I did not know but heard their stories from people who did know them. During my work periods, I need to focus on my research project of the day and stop chasing the bright, shiny objects that waste my precious research time.

Family heirlooms and family stories are a storehouse of information I can make available to a younger generation. The caption on my coffee mug: ‘Genealogy—It’s All About Family’ is my 2026 genealogy motto.”

“In my genealogical research, I have almost solely focused on the maternal side of my family,” writes **Missy McCormick**. “My hope in 2026 is to spend more time researching my father’s side of the family. A few pieces of information a family member provided me are: 1) Our paternal grandmother, Louise Katherine Hausler, was born in New York City, 2 May 1903. 2) Her father, George Frederick Hausler, was born in Nuremberg, Germany, 6 January 1868; and Louise’s mother, Anna Goedtal, was born in Morbach, Germany, 16 June 1876. Also, according to my family member, my father’s father, Francis Michael Reilly, helped in the construction of Randolph AFB in San Antonio and lived from 1896-

NEW YEAR, NEW GOALS!

1933. I also have knowledge that his father's parents were both Irish. I look forward to learning more!"



Nancy Gilbride Casey shares "I hope to learn more about my second great-grandmother Maria Jane Darragh Cassidy's 1906 cause of death: acute mania. She is the second ancestress I have discovered who had a mental illness. Learning about the 19th century diagnosis and treatment of acute mania is an early 2026 goal."

Beth Leggieri has drafted the following comprehensive plan:

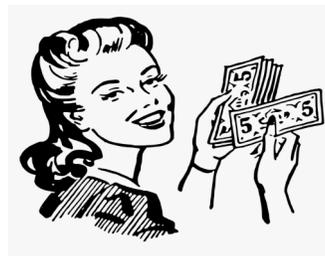
Part A

1. Beginning Jan 1: Establish digital heir agreement with trusted kin who have:
 - a. Demonstrated continued interest in our shared ancestral history,
 - b. Possess technical expertise and intent to continue their genealogical education, and
 - c. Agree to continue the research, archiving and sharing it according to best practices. ([What is a genealogical digital heir?](#))
2. Beginning Feb 1: Select those profiles that meet the Genealogical Proof Standard and begin transferring those to the digital heir(s). Attach those individuals' narratives constructed from research to their research profiles.

Part B

1. By June 1: Edit established private research tree on Ancestry. Label which profiles meet the Genealogical Proof Standard and which profiles are a work in progress. ([What is the Genealogical Proof Standard?](#))
2. By June 1: Download a GEDCOM of private Ancestry research tree. ([What is a GEDCOM?](#))
3. By June 1: Determine stand-alone genealogy program to be purchased as personal archive (potentially Family Tree Maker). Upload GEDCOM of revised private research tree held by Ancestry to the privately archived genealogy program. Begin regular syncing between the Ancestry private research tree and the personal genealogy research archive.

All images: rawpixel.com



TREASURER'S REPORT

Report for Month of October 2025

Balance—Oct. 1, 2025		\$3,790.05
Deposits Dues	\$210.00	
Total Deposits		\$210.00
Disbursements		
Speaker Fee	\$150.00	
Scholarships	\$168.00	
Zoom Subscription	\$170.86	
Total Disbursements		\$488.46
Balance Oct. 31, 2025		\$3,511.59

TREASURER'S REPORT

Report for Month of November 2025

Balance—Nov 1, 2025		\$3,511.59
Deposits Dues	\$50.00	
Total Deposits		\$50.00
Disbursements		
Speaker Fee	\$75.00	
Total Disbursements		\$75.00
Balance Nov. 30, 2025		\$3,486.59

—Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lane, Treasurer



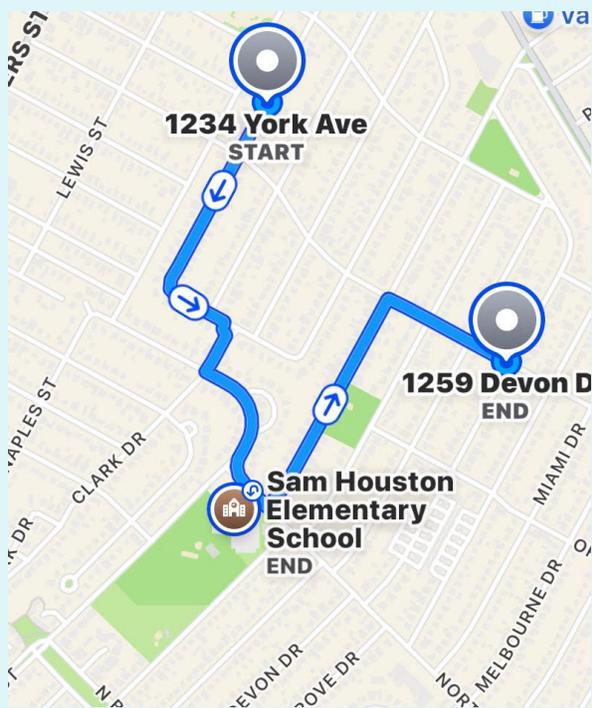
MEMBERCONNECT: NEWS, TIPS, & RESOURCES

Beth Leggieri shared this recently, “I discovered that I can design a migration map from MapQuest on my iPhone.

While documenting a family story for one of my sisters, using MapQuest I pulled up the address of a family friend listed in a city directory to see where it was in relation to our home address. For grins I added the elementary school they both attended as a pin point. Then added the address of our family home location in the late 1940s and made a screen shot of it for her story.

The topic under discussion had been the freedom children had to roam their neighborhoods, walk to school, and then play after school enjoying spontaneous baseball or touch football games in one another’s front yards.

What other tricks can we do with our current devices?”



ROOTS WRITERS

At recent Roots Writers meetings, participants shared progress towards achieving their writing goals during the past month. Questions were answered and encouragement given!

The November meeting included a discussion of family members’ interest/lack of interest in our research and stories. During Decembers’ meeting, members shared holiday goodies and passed around family history gifts, such as an heirloom book, they have prepared to give, .

If you have an interest in preserving family history stories, join Roots Writers on Wed., Jan. 21st from 11 a.m.–12 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Emily Fowler Central Library.



To our newest DCGS member,
Marty Medrano.
We’re glad you’re with us.

LIBRARY PROGRAMMING, NEW BOOKS & MORE



Connections: A Genealogy Discussion Group

Friday, Jan. 23, 11 a.m.

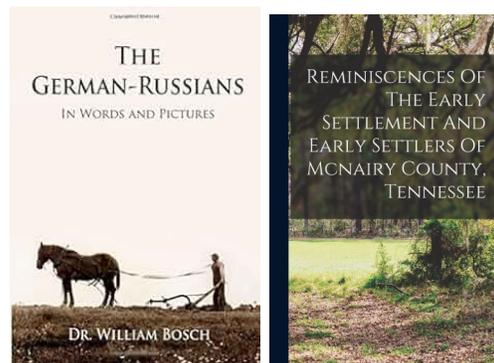
Join us for a group that explores genealogical research through discussion of articles published in the TxSGS journal *Stirpes*. As a registrant, you will receive the focus article and a list of questions to guide our conversation. This group is for anyone interested in learning more about genealogical research and the historical context of their family history. Please register by January 22 to receive a copy of the article and discussion questions, [by clicking this link](#).

The January discussion will focus on the article “Finding and Using City Directories for Family History Research,” by Sandra Crowley, published in *Stirpes*, September 2024, pages 25-31.

Beginning Genealogy

Friday, Jan. 30, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

Are you curious about your family history, just not sure how to start? It may be easier than you think. In this session we will discuss the basic concepts and processes of genealogical research, the first steps in gathering information, how to locate and evaluate records, and how to find free or low-cost training to grow your genealogical skills. Please register by January 29, [by clicking this link](#).



New Books on the Special Collections Shelves

- ◆ *The German-Russians: in Words and Pictures* by Dr. William Bosch
- ◆ *The Land Records of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1726-1733, 1726-1733*, by Elise Greenup Jourdan – donated by Kim Chance
- ◆ *Create a Family Genealogy Book: Using the Hybrid Genealogy* by Kelly Kohlenberg Mahoney
- ◆ *New Copies of Old Records from Hebron, Connecticut, 1708-1875*, by Linda MacLachlan – donated by Linda Jonas
- ◆ *Tombstones of the Irish Born: Cemetery of the Holy Cross, Flatbush, Brooklyn*, by Joseph M. Silinonte – donated by Linda Jonas
- ◆ *Women's Life and Work in the Southern Colonies* by Julia Cherry Spruill – donated by Linda Jonas
- ◆ *Reminiscences of the Early Settlement and Early Settlers of McNairy County, Tennessee* by Marcus J. Wright – donated by Kim Chance



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**

