

DCGS News

ENHANCE YOUR RESEARCH WITH 20 WEBSITES YOU NEED TO USE



We are lucky to have the internet at our disposal. We are all familiar with Ancestry and FamilySearch, and how to research using Google. But there are other websites focused on specific resources and locations to help you discover documents and more to answer your ancestral questions. What are they?

Join **Emily Coffman Richardson** for **“20 Websites Every Genealogist Should Use,”** at the Denton County Genealogical

Society’s monthly meeting, Thursday, March 12th. 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.

Come prepared to listen to Emily’s fast-paced introduction to the websites—even the most experienced researcher may discover a new site or two. Then spend time at home afterwards finding new information about your ancestors!

Emily is a professional genealogist and lecturer living in Denton, Texas. She began her genealogy research working with her mother in courthouses and cemeteries finding records for her ancestors in Ohio and Pennsylvania. She retired from higher education in 2019, moved to Texas, and opened up Kinsearchers, the original name of her mother’s genealogy business. Her client work includes lineage applications, brick wall busting, and researching name conflicts within family trees.

Emily has received the SAR’s Martha Washington Award for researching multiple lineages for prospective members. She is president of the Texas State Genealogical Society, after serving as secretary and director-at-large, and she oversees production of TxSGS’s podcast, *Lone Star Family Trails*.



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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

Happy March! Happy St. Patrick's Day to those of us who claim Irish descent. March also is Women's History Month, and includes International Women's Day (8th), Chocolate Chip Cookie Week (1st – 7th), and the first day of Spring/the equinox (20th).

John and I thought we'd get a jump on spring cleaning by looking through a closet to which we added items after the deaths of our moms and my aunt. This is a small storage place where items went in but never came out! We weren't even sure what we'd stowed in there.

A couple boxes yielded interesting dolls from my aunt's doll collection, including an unopened box with a Barbie doll and accessories. Many dolls are in decent condition but aren't as valuable as they could have been because there are no boxes with them, a point to remember if you have collectibles.

Among other items we found are two portraits of old relatives, my Great-Aunt Dicey (1880-1915), and John's great-great-grandfather. These are studio prints and are not in great condition. They're printed on cardboard about 12 x 18 inches with damage in various spots. We've had programs on digitizing and protecting photographs, but those don't really apply to our portraits. We're now on the hunt for ways to repair and preserve them. Anyone with any hints, please let us know! DCGS is a reservoir of great talent, and I'm always impressed by the skills we can share.

RootsTech is March 5-7, 2026. Everything you want is online.

The Nominating Committee will be calling this month. Please say YES.

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

Visit DCGS online



Facebook

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

Website

www.genealogydentontexas.org

2025-26 DCGS OFFICERS

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

Submissions always welcome at
newsletterdcgs@gmail.com.

Newsletter Staff

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.

FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc., Feb. 12, 2026 Minutes.

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

Pledge of Allegiance—President O’Neill

Reports

Vice-President—Stacie Briggs announced that the NARA office in Fort Worth no longer provides tours of the NARA facility, so the plan for a tour on April 24 has been cancelled.

Membership—Marian Carroll introduced guest Alice Rubin and new members Joan Delashaw and Sherry Mulkey. Members present - 27 and guests present - 3; members present on Zoom - 7, with guests present on Zoom - 1, for a total of 38 in attendance.

Secretary—Bob Lane: Minutes for the January 8, 2026 meeting were published in the newsletter. There were no corrections to the minutes.

Treasurer—Linda Lane: The financial report was published in the newsletter and will be filed for audit. The balance in the bank is \$3,261.59 on February 12, 2026.

Social/Hospitality—Eileen thanked Joan Anderson for bringing and preparing treats and for all who helped with set up.

Librarian—Laura Douglas announced the scheduled events/presentations at the Emily Fowler Library. Connections Genealogy Discussion group meets on the fourth Friday of each month.

Newsletter—Congrats to Nancy Gilbride Casey for the 3-peat for winning 1st place in the Partner Society publication category, 2025 Texas State Genealogical Society Writing Awards for *DCGS News*. DCGS received \$100 from TxSGS for the award.

President O’Neill discussed the need for a volunteer to handle the newsletter publication. Please contact Nancy Gilbride Casey or President O’Neill if you have questions or wish to volunteer.

New Business

- ◆ Beth Leggieri discussed Roots Writer meetings and the importance to DCGS.
- ◆ Bob Lane proposed a higher amount than the \$50.00 previously approved for the purchase of a book in honor of Patti Gillespie for her contributions to DCGS at various meeting programs over the past few years. Amount proposed for the purchase is recommended to be \$93.42 for a specific book recommended by Laura Douglas. The motion was approved unanimously.
- ◆ Reminder to all, there is scholarship funding available for any genealogy course you may wish to attend.

Announcements

- ◆ Next DCGS meeting is Thursday, March 12, 2026, starting with social time at 6:30, business meeting at 7:00 here at Emily Fowler Library.
- ◆ President O’Neill will soon set up a Nominating Committee to consider candidates for the upcoming election in May.
- ◆ Please consider volunteering for a DCGS officer position.

Program—Stacie introduced the program for this evening. The presenter was Barbara Coakley. She discussed bias that may influence genealogy research and tips for reducing such incidences.

President’s Last Word—“Remember me in the family tree; my name, my days, my strife. Then I’ll ride upon the wings of time and live an endless life.”—Linda Goetsch, author.

Please help put up the tables and chairs.

President O’Neill adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

—Respectfully Submitted by Robert Lane, Secretary





Ten Roots Writers (RW) met in February and benefited from Sandra Robertson's Family Tree Maker demonstration, learning assorted applications for distribution of their research. Members discussed personal writing, with Marian Carroll sharing her written capture of a childhood encounter with her brother and grandmother. RWs agreed there are many options for organizing and sharing ancestral history as current writing projects and goals were shared.

Future discussions will include how to establish a writing routine (that works!); ways to distribute/archive ancestral history research; and assorted problem-solving strategies. Special guests will be sharing their expertise through the spring.

March's meeting will include Nancy Gilbride Casey's introduction to blogging to document her research, and two RWs will share finished projects and what they learned in the process.

Join Roots Writers meetings on the third Wednesdays of each month. The Emily Fowler Meeting Room opens at 10:30 a.m., the meeting runs from 11 a.m.-12 p.m., followed by informal genealogical visiting until 12:30 p.m. (Snacks and drinks are allowed.) Come charge your genealogical batteries with Roots Writers!
Next meeting—March 18. ☞

LEARNING ABOUT BIAS AND HOW TO COMBAT IT

By Nancy Gilbride Casey

Barbara Coakley's presentation, "Avoiding Bias: Consider All the Possibilities," was either a wake-up call or a reminder to researchers and guests at the February DCGS meeting.

The reminder: We all have biases, unconscious favoritism towards one theory vs. another, one family story vs. another, etc. Coakley introduced us to the idea that sources can also be biased, as can informants on records, newspaper reporters, and others. The careful researcher is aware and on guard to root out biases so that their research can stand the test of time.

Biases can result in all sorts of errors, including misinterpreting facts, disregarding information, making assumptions, and applying today's standards to historical events or information, among others. Coakley suggested using both the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) and a sound research process to combat bias. She provided a research template to help attendees plan their work.

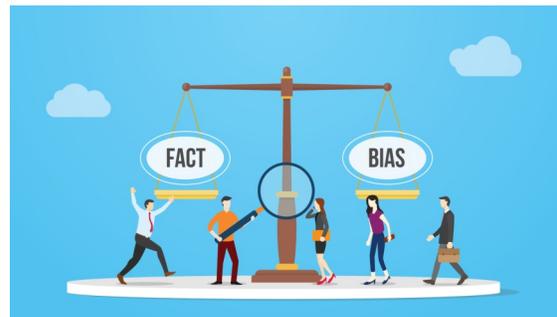


Image: Vecteezy

She shared several case studies from her own research where she encountered bias and how she discovered the truth, including a fascinating example involving bias in newspaper reporting on an ancestor's death and the records which revealed the truth.

Coakley gave a well-rounded presentation on an important topic. Her useful handout also included a resource list to help researchers meet the GPS by using a wide variety of sources. ☞



Save the dates! The TxSGS Family History Conference is back in person and being held in Fort Worth this fall. Join fellow researchers from across the state at the Riley Center on the campus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, on November 6-7, 2026, for this hybrid event. Registrants have the opportunity to attend in-person or virtually. In-person speakers will be live-streamed with the sessions recorded during the live presentation. Recordings will be available to registrants for 90 days after the conference. **Mark your calendars now!**

TREASURER'S REPORT		
Report for Month of January 2026		
Balance—Jan. 1, 2026		\$3,486.59
No Deposits	\$0.00	
Total Deposits		\$0.00
Disbursements		
Speaker's Fee	\$100.00	
Total Disbursements		\$100.00
Balance Jan. 31, 2026.		\$3,386.59

—Respectfully submitted,
Linda Lane, Treasurer

WELCOME

to our newest DCGS members!

- ◆ **Sherry Mulkey**, who is researching the surnames Mulkey, Myers, and Malone.
- ◆ **Joan Delashaw**, who pronounces her first name like “Joanne.”

We're happy you have joined DCGS!

ANCESTOR QUESTION(S) OF THE MONTH



Which female ancestor do you admire? Tell us specifically why you admire her.

Mary Tate writes, “Ann Blackwell was probably born in Rutherford Co., North Carolina, about 1819. Charles and Peter Blackwell and families roamed Tennessee and Alabama until Peter settled in Jackson County, Alabama. By 1840, Ann and sisters were with Peter’s family, but they were not his children. Ann married Lorenzo Dow Bridges about 1841 and they had seven children. In the 1850s, L.D. Bridges, their son Alonzo (age 10), Peter Blackwell, his wife Lydia, and several of their children and grandchildren all died. Ann, alone in Alabama, petitioned to be guardian of her remaining children and moved them to Coryell Co., Texas, where Peter and Lydia’s older sons had moved several years before. The cousins in Texas went to the Civil War and did not return. Ann moved southward into what is now Lee Co., Texas, where she married again briefly and unsuccessfully. All six adult children married and had families, most of them remaining near her home place for several generations. I admire Ann for braving these hardships mostly alone. I wonder if there was some difficulty with the executor of L.D.’s will or neighbors in Alabama? Ann filed the guardianship in Coryell Co., as well as Jackson Co., Alabama. ☞



Mary Szpet

Dawn Terrizzi writes, “My family is full of strong women whom I admire. But for this newsletter, I’d like to introduce my great-aunt Mary Szpet, born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, in 1922 to two Polish immigrant parents and whom I very much admire and miss every single day. Mary had five brothers and sisters and during the Depression. Mary and her oldest brother were temporarily put into foster care and sent to a country home where I was told they endured hard work and abuse. Mary never married and supported herself by working various jobs during a time when many women depended on their husbands for income. She walked everywhere, as she never learned to drive, and when her sister’s husband died after 42 years of marriage, Mary sold her house and moved in with her sister so that they could support each other. She had both of her hips replaced, was a survivor of both colon and ovarian cancer, and made the best pierogies this side of Poland, which required her to wake up before sunrise to have them ready for family lunch. She was never shy to share her opinion or a smile, and enjoyed teaching the family Polish words and phrases that she remembered from her youth. She passed in 2016 at the age of 94.” ☞

Missy McCormick shares, “I admired and appreciated how my grandmother, Louise K. ‘Mom’ Maupin, always made Christmas special!



Louise K. “Mom” Maupin

Growing up, my siblings and I called our paternal grandmother ‘Mom.’ I never understood why, but we and our cousins always referred to her as ‘Mom,’ while we called our real mothers ‘Mother.’ It’s still a mystery to me.

Mom lived in the same town as my family, so we saw her often. I can recall our family, along with my father's two brothers and their families, celebrating the Christmas holiday with Mom in a very special way. Each Christmas Eve, we had a tradition wherein the three fathers would hold each of their children up to hang their stockings. Of course, as we grew, it became more of a challenge to lift us! I also recall the older grandchildren lighting candles around Mom's darkened home and the warm feeling I felt as the candles glowed. After sharing a large family dinner, we would head home. On Christmas morning, we opened presents at our homes and then returned to Mom's house to open more presents and to find what had been put in our stockings!"



Essie Matthews

Eileen O'Neill writes, "My mother Essie Matthews was born in 1915 in northern Florida. An only child, her father died before she was born; she lived with her mother and grandfather on his farm. She was a lonely child. They had plenty to eat, but cash was short. She did well in school, but had to earn money for each college semester, dropping out to work, never able to finish. When WWII started, without telling her mom, she enlisted in the U.S. Women's Army Corps. She was sent to England (1943-1945). She occasionally talked about the war, about hearing bombs drop from German planes and watching U.S. planes return to base, counting to see the number lost. She met a lawyer in the JAG office; they married in England in Sept. 1945. This young woman broke from what would have been considered her 'normal' path: to marry young and stay where her family had deep roots. Instead, she went overseas to a war zone, married a man (Catholic!) who'd never met her family, and moved to Denver with him. Coming from a deeply racist area, she rejected those beliefs, treating people equitably. She was a strong woman who carved her own path." 🐾

AMERICA

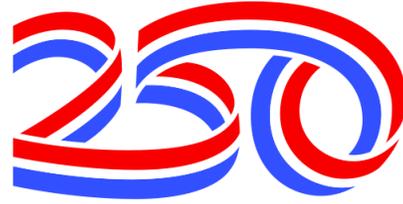


Image: Wikimedia Commons

Which of your female ancestors witnessed an historic American event? What was her experience?



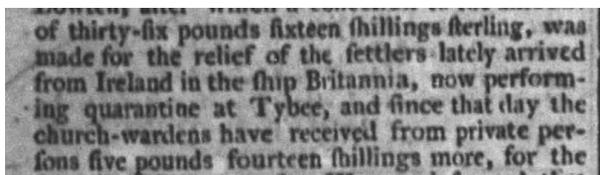
Courtesy of Geneva Grimes Stayton.

Robert Cruik writes, "My maternal third great-grandmother, Susan Mahaly (Whitlock) Grimes married in Wilson County, Tennessee, on 26 November 1860, to Tennessee Mathis Dean Grimes, who served in Second (Smith's) Cavalry and Second (Biffle's) Battalion Cavalry from 13 December 1861 until 1863. Susan was left at home with her parents and siblings while her husband was away. During his absence, her family suffered much because of the bushwhackers who came and stole from them and other families, as well as killing one of her brothers. On June 1, 2002, at our annual Grimes family reunion, a granddaughter of Tennessee and Susan, Geneva (Grimes) Stayton, told this account: 'It was told to me by Grandma Susan that during the time her husband was at War she was sick and lying in bed. Suddenly she heard a commotion outside and looked out the window that was close to her bed. She saw some Yankee soldiers outside stealing their horses! She was so mad that she said if she felt well enough, she would have taken a cast iron skillet outside and whopped them all upside the head!'

Grandma Susan had cast iron courage!" 🐾

“High rents, religious pressure, and a failing linen market pushed my fourth great-grandmother, Mary Gamble, and her husband, Richard Peel, from their home in Downshire in the Ulster province of Ireland,” writes **Beth Leggieri**. “In October 1771, they and their extended family of Ulster-Scots Presbyterians boarded the *Britannia* in Belfast. They were bound for Queensborough, a sprawling 50,000-acre tract dedicated to ‘Irish Protestants’ along the Ogeechee River, deep in colonial Georgia’s backcountry, northwest of Savannah.

The Atlantic crossing was a nightmare. Smallpox and measles tore through the ship, and Mary watched as 29 children’s bodies were cast into the sea. Her first glimpse of her new home on 6 January 1772 was not a welcoming shore but Tybee Island—a bleak quarantine station for sick passengers and the enslaved. She would be held there for 40 days.



Britannia Irish settlers quarantined at Tybee Island.

Life on the frontier proved just as harsh. She birthed three children from 1772-1775 while Queensborough’s Ulster-Scots waged a bloody civil war over loyalty to the Crown. Raids by local indigenous tribes were a constant threat. Mary’s family sided with the Patriots; her husband, brother, and brother-in-law joined the militia or the Continentals. Her first decade in America was a brutal test of survival, yet she endured.” ☞

Nancy Gilbride Casey writes, “Catherine (Kate) Gilbride, a second great-grandmother, was institutionalized for puerperal mania after the stillbirth of her second child. Also impoverished, local poor directors sent her to Danville Asylum in Montour County, Pennsylvania, in April 1877.

I imagined Kate was warehoused in horrible conditions, with terrible food, shoddy accommodations, and enduring treatments that would send a shiver down one’s spine.

But while at Danville Asylum, Kate experienced a new form of treatment of the mentally ill gaining hold in the U.S.—the Moral Treatment. Developed in Europe, it aimed to provide a calm environment for patients, theorizing this would help them to mental health. Rather than cells, patients lived in dormitories in a tastefully decorated new facility. They had indoor/outdoor activities and attended



Danville Asylum image courtesy of Phil Thomas.

chapel and entertainments. They enjoyed the asylum’s pastoral setting, ate wholesome food, and received medical care. Use of physical restraints were frowned upon unless necessary.

Before the movement led to construction of this new type of asylum, mentally ill individuals were often sent to jails or poor houses, which could not care for them. So, though Kate died from pneumonia in 1881 before being cured, without the historic Moral Treatment, she could have endured a very different fate.” ☞



Do you have an ancestor who entered Texas through Galveston Island? Or someone who made Galveston home after statehood? Hear from archivist Kaitlin Eckmann of the **Galveston & Texas History Center** on the latest episode of **Lone Star Family Trails** podcast, as she discusses the Center’s range of holdings, rare books, historic maps, and more. Listen now at <https://www.txsgs.org/lone-star-family-trails-podcast-127-galveston-texas-center-part-of-rosenberg-library/>

LIBRARY PROGRAMMING, NEW BOOKS & MORE

PROGRAMS THIS MONTH



Connections: A Genealogy Discussion Group

**Friday, March. 27,
11 a.m.**

Join us for a group that explores genealogical research through discussion of articles published in the TxSGS journal *Stirpes*. The featured article for March is, "Tracing Female Ancestors: A Journey Through History," by Sandra Crowley, published in the June 2024 issue, pages 17-23. As a registrant, you will receive the focus article, a list of questions to guide our conversation, and a list of related resources. This group is for anyone interested in learning more about genealogical research and the historical context of their family history. *Please register beginning March 13th at: <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/events/693ca39f94297d36009fa8ab>.*



Image: Wikimedia Commons

Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II

**Saturday, March 28,
10 a.m.**

Join TWU professor Katherine Sharp Landeck as she discusses the brave women who became service pilots during World War II. You can also read her book *The Women with Silver Wings: The Inspiring True Story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II*, available at the Denton Public Library. *Please register beginning March 20th at: <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/events/6941c278ddf563280021314b>.*

On the Library Blog



DPL's American Ancestors Access is Your Ticket to Researching Early American Family History

Among the many free databases available to Denton Public Library card holders is American Ancestors—a national nonprofit center for family history, heritage & culture based in Boston, Massachusetts, which has been setting the gold standard for family history research since its founding in 1845.

What does American Ancestors offer? Think access to billions of records spanning the United States, the British Isles, continental Europe, and beyond, one of the most extensive online collections of early American genealogical records, the largest searchable collection of published genealogical research journals and magazines, and the only online source for records from Boston's Catholic Archdiocese.

Access to American Ancestors' over 470+ databases is one of the many features on this comprehensive website. Of these databases, 417 are drawn from U.S. records, but the range also includes 10 Canadian, 8 each from England, Germany, and the U.K., 7 from Ireland, and a wide range of additional record sets from Norway to Barbados, Singapore to Wales.

Continue reading on the library blog: <https://dentonlibrary.wordpress.com/2026/02/14/dpls-american-ancestors-access-is-your-ticket-to-researching-early-american-family-history/>.



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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Genealogical Society
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Denton, TX 76201**

