

DCGS News

CLICK, LEARN, DISCOVER: LIFELONG LEARNING FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS



Laura Douglas

Genealogy is more than just finding names and dates. It's a lifelong journey of discovery and skill building as well. In today's digital world, family historians have countless opportunities to learn and grow their research skills.

For a primer on these opportunities, join **Laura Douglas** for **"Click, Learn, Discover: Lifelong Learning for Family Historians"** at the Denton County

Genealogical Society's monthly meeting, Thursday, April 9th. 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.

In this session, we'll explore online opportunities for learning genealogy methodology and practical tools like Word and Excel for organizing and presenting research, as well as tutorials on using social media and other technologies. Whether you are just beginning or have years of experience, you'll find online educational opportunities to keep your skills up to date and your genealogical projects moving forward.

Laura Douglas, a lifelong Texan, has lived in Denton County for most of her life, with a brief stay in Germany. She earned a BA in history from Texas Woman's University and an MLS from the University of North Texas. Laura has worked in libraries since 1990 and joined the Special Collections department at Denton Public Library in 2009, where she developed a passion for genealogy and local history research. She has led partnerships with organizations such as the Portal to Texas History through successful grant-writing efforts. Laura is a member of the Benjamin Lyon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Denton County Genealogical Society, and serves on the board of the Texas State Genealogical Society. 🌀



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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

Spring has come, but some days already feel like summer. Easter is around the corner as is Passover. Earth Day reminds us to take care of Mother Earth. April Fool's Day reminds us to keep our senses of humor. It's also National Volunteer Month, so if you're called by the DCGS Nominating Committee, please consider volunteering to keep our organization thriving.

I was looking at records for German ancestors, thinking about problems of language and vocabulary. Genealogy has its own vocabulary, some terms drawn from archaic or legal language. All of us have immigrant ancestors, so we often have to use translations. I had to find the translation for "Heiratsurkunde" which is "marriage record." That's straightforward, but if there is a legal term, understanding the term may be more difficult. There are occasionally Latin terms used in our English-language records. The TxSGS magazine is *Stirpes*, from the Latin term "per stirpes" often found in wills. To ensure that our research is correct, we need to understand the terminology used.

I found a number of websites useful in defining vocabulary, some for beginning researchers, others that included more obscure terms, such as "cadastral map." Our

advanced researchers probably know that one but I didn't.



Click on the following resource links to access their glossaries: [Family Tree Magazine](#), the [National Genealogical Society](#), [AmericanAncestors](#), [Library of North Carolina](#), and [Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness](#). [Genealogy.com](#) provides a list of terms in Latin, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

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

Visit DCGS online



Facebook

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

Website

www.genealogydentontexas.org

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

Submissions always welcome at
newsletterdcdgs@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.

MARCH 2026 MEETING MINUTES



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

Call to Order—Vice President Stacie Briggs, 7:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance—Vice President Briggs

Reports

Membership



Members attending in person at Emily Fowler Library: 17. Guests attending at Emily Fowler Library introduced by Marian Carroll: 9 (Jenny Bosley, Kathy Myers, Ashley Sims, Cheryl Jordan, Lisa Brown, Heather

Anderson, Beatrice Arteaga, Adela Arteaga and Zebulon Long). Members attending on Zoom: 4. Total attending meeting: 30

Secretary—Bob Lane: Minutes for Feb. 12, 2026 meeting were published in the newsletter. There were no corrections or additions, so the minutes were approved as submitted in the newsletter.

Treasurer—Linda Lane: The financial report was published in the newsletter. Current balance in the bank is \$3,373.17. This report will be filed for audit.

Social/Hospitality—Thanks to Joan Anderson for the treats tonight.

Librarian—Dawn Terrizzi presented scheduled upcoming events at the Emily Fowler Library.

Old Business—No old business presented.

New Business—No new business presented.

Announcements

- ◆ The Nominating Committee consists of Eileen O'Neill, Bob Lane, Monica Wenthold, and Sandra Robertson. They will be calling during this month in order to fill the positions of VP/Programming, Secretary, and Librarian. Committee chairs to be filled include Newsletter, Membership, Social/Hospitality. Please be willing to step up because without volunteers to fill these positions, there won't be a functioning DCGS.
- ◆ Stacie suggested much information may be found on the Family Search Person Page which includes detailed instructions for how it works.
- ◆ The next DCGS meeting will be April 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. for social time and 7:00 p.m. for the business meeting.

Program—Stacie introduced the program featuring our own Emily Richardson. This very interesting program highlighted "The 20 Websites Every Genealogist Should Use," as listed in the speaker's handout.

Thanks to Emily for a great program, as usual.

President's Last Word—"My apologies for missing another meeting of DCGS. I'm in Seattle with my critically-ill sister. I know everyone understands because as genealogists, we know 'family comes first.'" Thanks."

—Eileen

Please help return tables and chairs in the meeting to their normal placement.

Vice President Briggs adjourned this meeting at 8:20 p.m.

—Respectfully Submitted by Robert Lane, Secretary



ROOTS WRITERS

At the March Roots Writers meeting, Nancy Gilbride Casey explained what a blog is and how to create a free blog using a Blogger template to share and preserve family stories and research.



Her blog, [*Leaves on the Tree*](#), has also been a means of connecting with other persons who have shared their knowledge with her. The blog has proven to be both a preservation technique and a means of collaboration.

During the discussion, two other means of sharing stories were mentioned: the Gallery on Ancestry and Memories on FamilySearch. Both allow the uploading of pictures and documents. Be sure to put your name and date on the documents. If the subject of the article is known to you, briefly describe the connection.

The next Roots Writers meeting will be on Wed., April 15th, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon in the downstairs meeting room of the Emily Fowler Library. Dawn Terrizzi, Special Collections Librarian, will discuss the Book a Librarian program that can assist us with genealogical research questions or use of technology. ☞

RICHARDSON PRESENTED CURATED WEBSITE RESOURCES IN MARCH

By Beth Leggieri

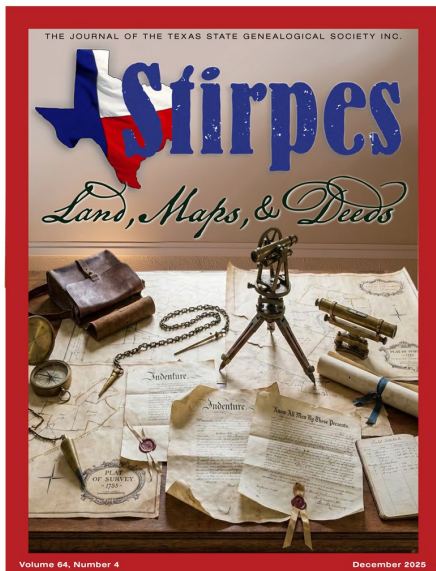
Emily Richardson's presentation, "The 20 Websites Every Genealogist Should Use," on Thursday, March 12th, featured a curated selection of free online resources aimed at helping researchers overcome obstacles and expand family history research. She emphasized sites that are reliable, user-friendly, regularly updated, and especially useful for U.S. genealogy, while still offering some international value. Her recommendations reflect tools she personally finds effective.

Among the highlights, [*HathiTrust*](#) provides access to over 18 million digitized books, including local histories, genealogies, and post-Civil War biographical volumes, with powerful full-text search capabilities. For newspaper research, [*Century Past Free Online Library*](#) collects a wide range of sources, including American Revolution materials and international newspapers. [*The Atlas of Historic County Boundaries*](#) is invaluable for understanding shifting county lines and tracking migration patterns over time.

Military researchers can explore [*Spared and Shared*](#), which offers transcriptions of Civil War soldiers' letters, revealing personal experiences and family connections. Richardson also noted the importance of [*Digital State Archives*](#), which link to extensive archival collections across the United States. Finally, [*Internet Archive*](#)'s genealogy portal allows users to browse curated categories such as family histories, city directories, and vital record indexes, making it a versatile and often overlooked resource. ☞

Note: A handout with all links mentioned in Emily's presentation was emailed to all members from newsletterdcs@gmail.com on March 12th.





Learn more about land, maps, and deeds in the latest issue of Stirpes, the journal of the Texas State Genealogical Society.

Texas State Genealogical Society's journal **Stirpes** is chock full of interesting articles each quarter, written by genealogy researchers from across the state.

In this issue, we explore land as both place and proof—an enduring record that anchors families to time, geography, and history. From federal patents and county deeds to contested inheritances and forced removals, the articles that follow demonstrate how land records do far more than describe property: they reveal relationships, expose social and legal realities, and preserve stories that might otherwise be lost.

With this issue's focus on land, maps, and deeds, articles include:

- ◆ "Go West, Young Man!" by Jim Thornhill.
- ◆ "Online Access to Texas Land Records: Tools, Tips, and Comparisons" by Susan E. Ball
- ◆ "Thaddeus O'Malley and the 1873 Timber Culture Act" by Nancy Gilbride Casey
- ◆ "The Garrisons and the Quakertown Community" by Missy McCormick, EdD
- ◆ "The Legacy of Peter Allen, Free Man of Color" by Mic Barnette
- ◆ "Sold At the Court House Door" by Russell A. Rahn
- ◆ "Stretching the Dollar" by Russell A. Rahn

Stirpes can be viewed at the Emily Fowler Library's Special Collections. The journal is also a benefit of TxSGS membership. For more info, [click here](#) or contact District1@txsgs.org.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Report for Month of February 2026

Balance—Feb. 1, 2026		\$3,386.59
Dues & Awards	\$305.00	
Total Deposits		\$305.00
Disbursements		
Speaker & Memorial	\$218.42.	
Total Disbursements		\$218.42
Balance Feb. 28, 2026.		\$3,473.17

—Respectfully submitted,
Linda Lane, Treasurer



Preserve your photos, videos, films, and more for FREE at the Legacy Lab at the Emily Fowler Library. Info and reservations: https://library.cityofdenton.com/screens/sc_legacylab.html#equipment

ANCESTOR QUESTION(S) OF THE MONTH

April 10th is National Siblings Day. Do you have a unique set of siblings in your family? What makes them unique? Or tell a favorite story about a sibling.

Charles Robertson writes, “My grandmother Xera Stewart was six years old when her brother Lewis was born in 1883 in Calloway County, Kentucky. Lewis was five years old when his sister Erie was born.

Lewis died on August 11, 1896. Both my cousin and I remember hearing that Lewis died of heart problems that he had from birth.

During his short life, Lewis participated in the activities of his family on their farm. Lewis had been given a pig which he raised as his own. He gave the pig to Xera before he died. Xera sold the pig and bought a ring with the money. Xera wore the ring for several years then gave it to Erie. Erie wore the ring until the band was worn apart.



Image: Charles Robertson.

Erie kept the ring in the original box and wrote a note about the ring that the sisters had worn in love and memory of their brother Lewis.”



Image: Collection of Beth Leggieri.

“My mother’s three older sisters, Bernice (1902), Bonnie (1904), and Virginia (1906), were pioneering figures whose influence shaped both their younger siblings and their family legacy,” writes **Beth Leggieri**. “Born into a musical performance family tradition in Denison, Texas—a growing railroad town filled with movement and opportunity—they were immersed early in music under their mother’s guidance.

In 1918, the family moved to Dallas, where expanded musical opportunities allowed the sisters to refine their skills. Performing as the “Melody Maids,” they played multiple instruments—among them piano, saxophone, clarinet, violin, and drums—with Bonnie as vocalist. They appeared at churches and civic events.

As family financial pressures grew, the sisters transformed their act into the “Gypsy Sweethearts,” added two members, and began touring in the early 1920s, wearing elaborate costumes sewn by their mother. Traveling independently on the road under contract to the Pantages Theater circuit, they split their earnings between supporting their family back home and covering their own expenses.

Their performing careers bridged the music history gap between vaudeville and early film

entertainment. The sisters eventually transitioned into family life as wives and mothers, each establishing businesses as entrepreneurs into their senior years. The Gypsy Sweethearts' enduring legacy lies in their resilience, optimism, and unwavering dedication to family.” ☞

Missy McCormick shares, “I have five siblings. John is the youngest. One of our funniest family stories, ‘Where is John?’, gets told every time my siblings and I are together. As the youngest, John has always been self-sufficient and a true survivor even though he was the ‘left behind child.’

Okay, here goes the story...we were headed to McKinney, Texas, from San Antonio in our family station wagon (like the picture below). When we got to San Marcus (nearly an hour away from San Antonio), someone said: “Where is John?”

Okay, take a guess about what happened next... I will tell you—he survived and was found.

Well, my mother screamed - he was NOT in the car! I have never seen my mother drive so fast. OMG. We got home and found John (only about 2 years of age!) playing in the sandbox in the backyard where he was most of the time. Phew!

Large Family Side Note: We all had nicknames: Kathy - Kakee; Linda - Linna; Pat - GUNGA; Me - Moose and sometimes also called GUNGA; Art - Art the Fart; John - GUNGA and sometimes our mother called him ‘Jigs Bottom Top.’” ☞



Image: [Automobile Catalog](#). Used with permission.

Stacie Briggs writes, “The four Huffman brothers; we all have brothers like these in our tree. It was 1862. The Civil War was raging and tearing our country and many families apart. The Huffman brothers John Adams, Andrew Jackson, Eli Riley, and Thomas Jefferson, decided to join the fight. Only three of them would make it back home to their families.

John, Andrew, and Thomas all enrolled into Capt. Ryan’s Co. D of Texas’ 17th Infantry. Eli enrolled in Co. G., 1st Cavalry.

Thomas, pictured below, mustered in on 5 April 1862 and was discharged in June 1862. He failed his medical exam. This is the statement from the doctor on his muster roll, ‘I certify that I have



Image: Stacie Briggs.

carefully examined the said Huffman of Capt. Ryan’s company and find him incapable of doing the duties of a soldier because of his diminutive size (weighing 80 lbs.) and a weak and scrofulous constitution, his physical strength is not sufficient to carry the arms and accutremments (sic) and go through the fatigues of the camp.’—D. Port Smythe, Surgeon. Scrofulo means tuberculosis.

Andrew was killed in action on 11 January 1863 at the Battle of Arkansas Post, leaving a wife and four children behind.” ☞

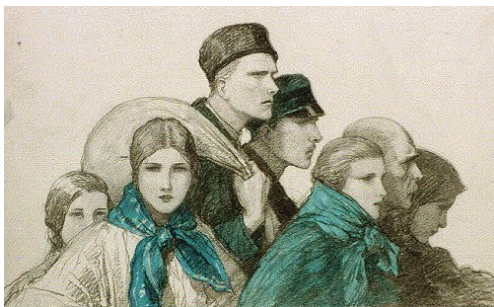


Image: Rawpixel.com.

One of America's greatest strengths is in its diversity of cultures. Tell us about a set of immigrant ancestors. Where did they come from? What drew them here?

Nancy Gilbride Casey writes, "Six of my eight great-grandparents immigrated to the U.S. from different countries, all drawn to America for economic opportunities unavailable in their homelands.

Edward Baker and his wife Catherine Cassidy emigrated from Ontario, Canada, in 1910, crossing at Niagara Falls, via the Niagara Street Railway. Edward, an iron molder, was quickly employed at a foundry in Cleveland, Ohio.

Franjo (Frank) Kozlina, a Croatian immigrant, arrived about 1904 into Baltimore. He migrated to Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, where he married Vjekoslava Baltorinic, a fellow Croatian immigrant, who had followed a sister to the area in 1902. The couple wed in 1904, and settled in Lemont Furnace, Pennsylvania, where Frank worked as a brick maker and coal miner.

Also drawn to southwestern Pennsylvania were János (John) Simonik and Anna Tatar, who married in Slovakia before immigrating. They arrived in 1902, and settled in Fayette County, where János worked as a coke drawer, teamster, and laborer in the area coke ovens and coal mines.



Image: Wikimedia Commons

All three couples took a chance on coming to America to make a better life. And they did—raising families, becoming part of the community, and lifting the next generation up to a better life than they had. I'm grateful." ☞



MEMBERCONNECT: NEWS, TIPS, & RESOURCES

"If you have immigrant ancestors who were still living in 1940 and had not yet naturalized, they may have a unique document called an AR-2 Alien Registration form. AR-2 forms can be a treasure trove of information to add to your genealogical research.

AR-2s were required after a 1940 law was passed aimed to register all non-citizens in the U.S. Alien residents had six months to register at a local post office and be fingerprinted. They then received an Alien Registration number and card.

Last summer, Ancestry added a database called "[U.S., WWII Alien Registrations, 1940-1955](#)." It indexes the same information available from the National Archives' "[Flexoline Index Data File](#)," if you don't have an Ancestry subscription.

What can you find in an AR-2 file? Non-citizens filing the form were asked to disclose participation in various organizations, military service, immigration details, even if they had previously been arrested.

Search for your immigrant ancestors in the Ancestry database or directly on NARA's Flexoline Database. These databases are indexes *only*. Once you have your ancestor's Alien Registration number, you can order their AR-2 form from NARA. The files cost \$20 each/\$17 for 2 or more.

My ancestor's AR-2 forms revealed many previously unknown facts, including prior immigration to the U.S., service in the Austria-Hungarian military, participation in a Slovak fraternal organization called Jednota, and much more. It was money well-spent!"

—Nancy Gilbride Casey

Video: "Finding and Using Alien Registration Forms for 20th Century Immigrants," YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSfzbtjB1nw&t=2139s>).

Website: "Alien Registration (AR-2) Form," National Archives (<https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/alien-registration-ar-2>)

Article: "How to Read an Alien Registration Form," by George G. Morgan, *Family Tree Magazine* (<https://familytreemagazine.com/records/immigration/document-detective-alien-registration/>)

LIBRARY PROGRAMMING, NEW BOOKS & MORE

PROGRAMS THIS MONTH



Connections: A Genealogy Discussion Group

**Friday, April 24, 11
a.m.**

Join us for a group that explores genealogical research through discussion of articles published in the TxSGS journal, *Stirpes*. This group is for anyone interested in learning more about genealogical research and the historical context of their family history. The featured article for the April 24 meeting is "Story Triggers: Finding Inspiration for Writing Family History," by Sandra Crowley, March 2025, pages 46-48. When you register you will receive an email with a link to access the focus article, the discussion questions, and a list of resources. Registration will open on Friday, April 10 and will close Thursday, April 23 at noon. <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/events/693ca4fc94297d36009fa91a>



Texas America250 Reading Challenge

The Texas Center for the Book, headquartered at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), is excited to encourage Texans to join us in the TSLAC Texas America250 Reading Challenge, part of the national America250 America Gives initiative.

From January 1 to December 31, 2026, we invite Texans of all ages to log 2,500 minutes (41.6 hours) of reading, attending library programs, visiting state parks, and/or volunteering, in honor of our nation's 250th anniversary.

Earn virtual badges for every 250 minutes logged. When 2,500 minutes are logged, you will earn a Certificate of Completion and will be entered into a prize drawing. <https://denton.readsquared.com/>

On the Library Blog



Friday Nights at Bronco Park: Remembering the Denton Tigers

In 1954 the Denton Tigers played in the North Texas (Amateur) Negro Baseball League. According to an article in the *Cleburne Times-Review* published on April 2 of that year, the League was divided into two divisions, north and south, each with 8 teams. The teams in the Northern Division were the Grapevine Auctioneers, Grand Prairie Chance-Vought Bombers, McKinney Red Sox, Dallas Spiders, Irving, Pilot Point, and the Denton Tigers. In the Southern Division the teams were the Waxahachie All-Stars, Grapevine Cats, Dallas Bluebirds, Eagle Ford All-Stars, Cleburne Eagles, Grand Prairie Jets, Ennis, and Garland.

League play was structured so that each team paid a \$25.00 entrance fee; 20% went to the league for expenses and the remainder was put towards the winner's pot. The winners of each division would meet at the end of the season, and the winner of the final game series would take the winnings and claim the league title.

That season, the Tigers played most home games on Friday nights at Bronco Park. Away games were played on Sunday afternoons.

The 1954 Denton Tigers roster included:

- Tommy Craft, manager
- William Fred Goodner, right field, 2nd base
- Charlie Jones
- Joe Miller, pitcher
- William Lawrence Peace, 2nd base, shortstop
- O'Dell Minor, 3rd base
- Jesse Moore, centerfield
- Marvin Perry, pitcher
- E.D. Price, left field
- Luther Varner, shortstop
- Harold Williams, 1st base
- Elvie Wilson, catcher
- H.F. Wilson, pitcher

[To continue reading on the library blog, click here.](#)

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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Genealogical Society
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