

DCGS News

DCGS MEMBERS TAKE CENTER STAGE WITH “MY BEST DISCOVERY”

Denton County Genealogical Society **members** will take center stage at the next monthly meeting to share, “**My Best Discovery.**”

The annual showcase of member research will be held on Thursday, May 14th. 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. This is an in-person meeting only.

This is members’ chance to share those amazing finds you’ve had over the past year. Did you locate a famous ancestor or finally identify your great-great-great-grandmother? Did you meet a previously unknown relative through DNA? Did you find a document that tied all the pieces together? Tell us about it. Those who would like to share will have between 5-7 minutes to discuss their discoveries.



Email Stacie Briggs, vice president, at vicepresidentdcgs@gmail.com to reserve your spot on the program. Note that while members may display photos and artifacts in the meeting room, slide presentations cannot be allowed due to time constraints.

Don’t miss this once-a-year favorite program and share in the excitement of discovery! 🦋



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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/meta12494/m1/1/>; 2 May 2023); citing Denton Public Library.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Eileen O'Neill

We've now come to the last meeting of 2025-2026. DCGS has had some excellent programs during the year, including speakers on websites to use and to hone our skills, on ways to avoid bias, and on how to use AI to advance research. Some have been through Zoom, some in-person; all have been informative. I hope everyone has learned something from each of our speakers and has enjoyed the year.

Since we haven't been able to fill the vice president/programming position, the Executive Board will be setting up the slate of speakers for 2026-27, and we need your help. Please let us know if there are particular topics you'd like to see covered during the coming year. You should be receiving a survey about programming for the coming year; please complete it.

Also, the Nominating Committee was unable to find a newsletter editor; we will have to move to a more limited and shortened version next year to communicate the minutes of the meetings and our treasurer's report.

We still have scholarship funds, and there will be applications on the table at the May meeting. There will also be a handout at the May meeting providing information on websites listing possible conferences and seminars that you might be interested in attending with scholarship help. Consider this wonderful resource to improve your skills.



Our elections to fill a couple Executive Board positions will be held at the May meeting. Shari Williams has been nominated as secretary, and Dawn Terrizzi has been nominated for librarian.

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

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Facebook

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

Website

www.genealogydentontexas.org

2025-26 DCGS OFFICERS

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

Vice President

Stacie Briggs, *vicepresidentdcgs@gmail.com*

Secretary

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Nancy Gilbride Casey, *district1@TXSGS.org*

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.

APRIL 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc., April 9, 2026 Minutes.

Call to Order—President O'Neill called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reports

Membership—Members attending in person at Emily Fowler: 19; members attending via Zoom, 4; guests attending in person at Emily Fowler, 0; guests attending via Zoom: 1. Total attendance: 24.

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

Treasurer—Linda Lane: The financial report was published in the newsletter and will be filed for audit. The current treasury balance is \$3,306.17 as of April 9, 2026.

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

Librarian—Dawn Terrizzi presented the librarian information for Laura Douglas. Please check the DPL Emily Fowler website for a complete listing of available events. Of particular note for April is Connections (last Friday of each month), and a birdwalk this coming Tuesday. For details, see the website.

Nominating Committee—President O'Neill summarized the work of the Nominating Committee as follows:

Nomination for Secretary: Shari Williams

Nomination for Librarian: Dawn Terrizzi

Nomination for Vice – President for Programs: **(need volunteer!)**

Positions appointed by the President:

Membership Chair: Stacie Briggs

Social/Hospitality: Joan Anderson

Webmaster: Charlene Case

Newsletter Editor: **(need volunteer!)**

The following positions represent the second year of the two-year elected term. No nomination is needed for the second year.

Treasurer – Linda Lane

President – Eileen O'Neill

President O'Neill expressed thanks to the following who performed duties admirably in keeping their programs functioning properly: Nancy Gilbride Casey (Newsletter), Marian Carroll (Membership), Stacie Briggs (VP Programs), Laura Douglas (Librarian), and Bob Lane (Secretary).

President O'Neill will meet with the Executive Board in May to discuss actions and options for newsletter editor and VP programs.

Old Business—No old business presented.

New Business—Roots Writers Special Interest Group meets the 3rd Wednesday each month. Beth Leggieri mentioned some of the topics discussed and advantages for members by attending.

Announcements

Members are encouraged to seek genealogy-related training and coursework for which they may apply for a scholarship. Consider institutes, conferences, classes, etc. Scholarship application forms are available.

Membership forms are available. Dues can be paid in May. All members, new and renewing, must fill out a new form. Be sure to check your phone number, email address, etc., that may be incorrect. Be sure to include your areas of interest.

Our next DCGS meeting is May 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. for social time and 7:00 p.m. for the business meeting.

Program—President O'Neill introduced the speaker, Laura Douglas. Laura presented "Click, Learn, Discover: Lifelong Learning for Family Historians." The lecture handout will be emailed to members soon. President O'Neill thanked Laura for the wonderful presentation.

President's Last Word—"Researching family history is an act of hope. Hope that we can learn something about ourselves by better understanding those who came before us."

—*Respectfully Submitted by Robert Lane, Secretary*



ROOTS WRITERS

Roots Writers (RW) met on April 15th at Emily Fowler Library with Special Collections librarian Dawn Terizzi joining us. Dawn explained how to use the Book a Librarian program to have an in-person conference with a librarian to discuss tech or reference questions. Those wishing to use the program can [complete the online form](#); the email genealogy@cityofdenton.com can also be used to connect with a librarian regarding a genealogy question.

RW members also shared their writing projects and/or genealogical research activities that they have been involved with since the March meeting. The encouragement given and collaboration are great motivators in our endeavors.

Roots Writers' next meeting will be on May 20th from 11 a.m.-12 noon in the downstairs conference room at Emily Fowler Library. Laura Douglas will be our guest and discuss the process of publishing a book of her mother's reminiscences. 📖

SAVE THE DATES



MEMBERCONNECT: NEWS, TIPS, & RESOURCES

Robert Cruitt sends this good news, “I had a breakthrough in my Grimes family ancestry by locating court records that helped me locate some long lost cousins! It has been amazing to get to know them!” He also recommends the book, [*The Census Book: Facts, Schedules & Worksheets For The U.S. Federal Censuses*](#) by William Dollarhide.

“If you have Texas ancestors who received land grants, be sure to check out the [Land and Lease Viewer](#) on the Texas General Land Office website.” writes **Nancy Gilbride Casey**. “The tool helped us locate my husband’s 4x great-grandfather’s property in Washington County that he received as an 1831 Mexican land grant. GLO staff assisted me in finding the exact location overlaid on a modern map using the ‘Original Texas Land Survey’ layer. It was fun to drive through the property recently and to take a photo of my husband by Caney Creek, also visible on early county maps.” 📷



Editor's Note—

It's been my honor and joy to create DCGS News along with you these past four years. Though my name is often the first associated with the newsletter, I've always said that without the contributions of so many, DCGS News would not be the publication it is. So, thank you to everyone who has contributed articles, photos, reports, recaps, letters, event info, proofreading, and so much more. I have learned so much from everyone who has contributed and from the process of putting the newsletter together.

I'm especially thankful to all the members who have taken up pen (or keyboard!), to begin writing about their ancestors for the Ancestor Question of the Month. So many precious stories...keep writing! (Don't forget Roots Writers!)

With gratitude,

Nancy Gilbride Casey



MEMBERS GAIN NEW RESOURCES IN MARCH PROGRAM



“Click, Learn, Discover,” Laura Douglas’ April presentation, focused on tried, true, and possibly new-to-you educational resources that genealogists should know about. Some, such as LinkedIn Learning, are available through the Denton Public Library website with a library card, while others can be accessed from home for free. Douglas encouraged everyone to review their own needs and take advantage of the wonderful opportunities awaiting on the many websites highlighted. ☞

TREASURER’S REPORT

Report for Month of March 2026

Balance—March 1, 2026		\$3,473.17
Dues & Awards	\$25.00	
Total Deposits		\$25.00
Disbursements		
Speaker & other expense	\$152.00	
Total Disbursements		\$152.00
Balance March 31, 2026		\$3,346.17

—Respectfully submitted,
Linda Lane, Treasurer

DCGS 2026-27 Memberships are now due. Renew your \$25 individual or \$35 family membership by cash or check made payable to “Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc.”

All new and renewing members must complete the Membership Application each year. Forms will be available at the May 14th meeting.

Those applying for the scholarship must pay their dues no later than the September 2026 meeting to be eligible.

ANCESTOR QUESTION(S) OF THE MONTH

What is the most unique document you've come across in your research?

No.	Doc.	Name	Residence	Quality	Age
77	11	David Light	Lucas St.	Cypress & lot	70 yrs
78	12	John F. Haring	St. Catharines	Walnut & lot	11 yrs
79	13	John A. Smith	St. Catharines	Walnut & lot	13 yrs
80	14	John A. Smith	St. Catharines	Walnut & lot	18 yrs
81	15	John A. Smith	St. Catharines	Walnut & lot	20 yrs
82	16	John A. Smith	St. Catharines	Walnut & lot	22 yrs
83	17	John A. Smith	St. Catharines	Walnut & lot	24 yrs
84	18	John A. Smith	St. Catharines	Walnut & lot	26 yrs
85	19	John A. Smith	St. Catharines	Walnut & lot	28 yrs
86	20	John A. Smith	St. Catharines	Walnut & lot	30 yrs
87	21	John A. Smith	St. Catharines	Walnut & lot	32 yrs
88	22	John A. Smith	St. Catharines	Walnut & lot	34 yrs
89	23	John A. Smith	St. Catharines	Walnut & lot	36 yrs
90	24	John A. Smith	St. Catharines	Walnut & lot	38 yrs
91	25	John A. Smith	St. Catharines	Walnut & lot	40 yrs
92	26	John A. Smith	St. Catharines	Walnut & lot	42 yrs
93	27	John A. Smith	St. Catharines	Walnut & lot	44 yrs

Image: St. Catharines Public Library

"I discovered the entry for my third great-granduncle, Daniel Cassidy, in a coffin register at a library in St. Catharines, Ontario!" writes **Nancy Gilbride Casey**. "The register recorded coffin orders between 1863-1866 for the cabinetmaker Thomas McIntyre. McIntyre was one of many cabinetmakers and carpenters who began to offer bespoke coffins in the mid-late 19th century. They began to 'undertake' more and more arrangements for funerals and became the precursors of modern funeral directors.

Daniel's entry included the type, size, and finish of his coffin, as well as his family's order of a 'hearse and span' (a two-horse cart), and that his coffin finish was 'stained.' The coffin size of 5'8" indicated that Daniel was not a tall man, perhaps 5'6" or 5'7". The total order cost \$20." 🐾

"The most unique document that I have come across is the Alien Case File for my paternal great-grandfather, Nicola Trifone," writes **Robert Cruit**. "He first immigrated to the states from Naples, Italy, on 8 March 1906, and arrived into the port of New York on 22 March 1906. The case file is full of fantastic details, including his place of birth, date of birth, his children, and one exciting thing—that he had served in the Italian

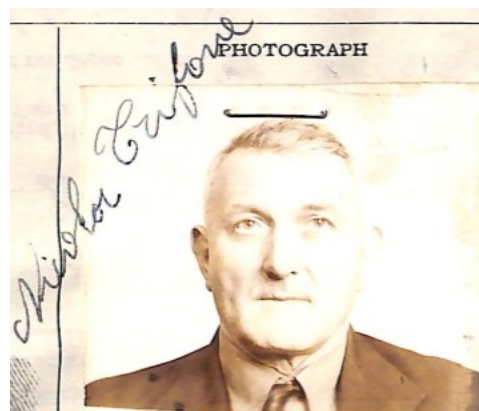


Image: Robert Cruit

Army during WWI! I am hoping to locate his military records to learn even more about his involvement with the war. The best thing about these documents is that they include not just his fingerprint, but a PICTURE! What a treasure! I am now able to see what he looked like! I would say as of today that this is not just my most unique document, but the most treasured!" 🐾

What historic place is important to you?



Postcard image: Dawn Terrizzi.

route during flooding and as access to the town atop the mountain.

I rode the Inclined Plane once as a child, with my family and grandfather. There is a restaurant at the top where we had dinner and enjoyed a birds-eye view of Johnstown. When I stayed in

Dawn Terrizzi writes, "The Johnstown Inclined Plane (left) is in my hometown of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. It's part of the National Register of Historic Places and the world's steepest vehicular inclined plane. It was constructed in 1890 by the Cambria Iron Company as an escape

Johnstown to help care for my dad during his last illness, I found a small stack of vintage postcards of the inclined plane in a local shop and looked through them with my grandmother. When my sister and I were in Johnstown emptying our childhood home to put it up for sale after our mom got sick, I snapped a photo while doing errands. The inclined plane and the flag nestled on top can be seen from the highway and is one of the first landmarks seen when entering from the south. This site serves as a connection to a town, a time, and beloved family members that are now a part of my past.” ☞



Last remaining La Reunion colony house.

Titus Ek shares, “A historic place that is important to me is the site of the La Reunion Colony in Dallas, Texas (above). John Loupot, my 5th-great grandfather, lived in the colony and was among the founding members when he moved to Dallas. Most notably, his daughter Rosa Loupot married notable colonist Gustave Santerre, cementing the family’s legacy and importance into the history of the colony. John Loupot worked in many interesting fields, being a stonemason at one point and a dairyman at another.” ☞

What is the oldest family artifact you own?

Emily Richardson writes, “This vase was given to my husband and I from his parents as a wedding gift. In the process of doing research about his family, the discovery of the vase’s history was amazing. A professional antique dealer told us, ‘The ewer is by Royal Worcester in England. It is in a basket weave pattern with hand painted

gold embellishments and floral decoration. Based on the ‘W’ the ewer would have been produced in 1885.’ This piece was probably brought back from Europe to America on one of William Werner Coleman’s trips to his homeland in Bremen, Germany.

He always traveled via London according to postcards that he sent home. William immigrated before 1850 and settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, running the only German newspaper in the city, and becoming a well-known citizen. He married Clara Valeria Metzl on 11 September 1858. They had 5 children, all schooled in Germany, including Halbert Armine Coleman, my husband’s great-grandfather. As best as we can determine, the vase was passed to Halbert’s daughter, Clara Alice Coleman, who then gave it to my husband’s parents. They in turn gave it to us at our wedding. Amongst the items found later was a photograph of the inside of William and his wife’s home in Milwaukee. On one of the mantels stands the vase.” ☞



Image: Emily Richardson

Beth Leggieri shares, “Antonio Leggieri’s Italian identity shaped generations of his family. Born in 1884 in Puglia after Italy’s unification strained the southern economy, he immigrated in 1906 as part of a chain migration that brought many Leggieri relatives through Ellis Island to New York. Settling in Hudson, New York, he built a life rooted in family and his barber shop became a hub for the growing Italian population in the early 20th century.

As a boy in Italy, Antonio visited Pompeii, where archaeologists gave him a pottery vessel he later brought to America. Years later, he showed this object—stored in his basement—to his grandson, who initially thought it was broken. In fact, it was an intact Roman amphora, designed for rack



From Estate of Antonio Leggieri, Private Collection of Beth Peel Leggieri

storage and used for foodstuffs. Its clever footed design kept it elevated, preventing moisture from seeping into the porous clay.

After Antonio's estate was divided, his grandson—my spouse—requested the piece, recognizing its story and significance. He was the only descendant aware of its existence and provenance.

Though legend claims removing artifacts from Pompeii brings misfortune, Antonio faced only the

typical hardships of an immigrant and ultimately achieved the American dream, leaving a legacy of resilience and family continuity.” ☞

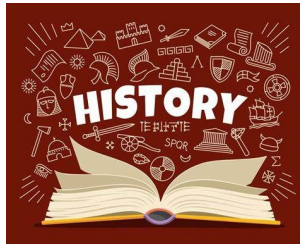
What is the one piece of family history you wish you had known sooner?

Kathy Lawrence

shares, “My life would likely have been quite different had I known more about my family history during my childhood. A great-grandmother born in

1884, Anna Bell Webb, shared with me that her ancestors may have served on both sides during the Civil War since she had family in Indiana and Kentucky, but most of what little she shared concerned family members during her lifetime.

History was my favorite subject in school and was my minor in college. Had I known my roots stretch back hundreds of years into British North America on multiple branches, as far back as the 1600s, and that I have numerous ancestors who fought or were patriots during the American



Revolution, I most likely would have majored in history, earned a PhD, and become a history professor, researcher, and writer.

The details concerning our family history were lost to my branches of descendants generations ago. A few distant cousins I have connected with have been more fortunate, but in most cases that was because descendants did not move away and thus were physically connected to the place and legacy.” ☞

Why do you do genealogy?

Tina Ek answers, “My family are storytellers, passing along the memories of those who are gone and the times in which they lived. I held those stories, along with the encouragement of my father's mother, who hoped that my proclivity for writing could include writing about our family's history.

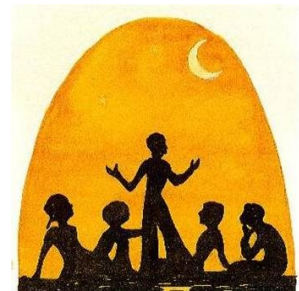


Image: Clipart Library

When I began practicing genealogy, the stories lighted my path and kept me on the trail. I find that genealogy deepens my connection to my family and makes history come alive for me. I particularly enjoy pursuing this hobby with my son, Titus, who has far surpassed me in his research abilities. Being a part of DCGS enriches my life and connects me to others who share my interests. The stories continue to unfold!” ☞



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institutes, and
much more
happening this
summer!**

LIBRARY PROGRAMMING, NEW BOOKS & MORE

PROGRAMS THIS MONTH



Introduction to the Legacy Lab

Sat., 5/16, 10 a.m.

May is National Historic Preservation Month!

Learn how to preserve your family history by converting your photos, home videos, and paper documents to digital formats. The Legacy Lab at Emily Fowler Central Library is a self-service digital archiving and conversion lab that provides you with the tools and the training to digitize your family's memories. Program will include a tour and brief presentation. Please register at: <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/events/69cedf19213814b1b522cd7d>.



Connections: A Genealogy Discussion Group

Fri., 5/22, 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. The featured article for May is "Finding and Using City Directories for Family History Research," by Sandra Crowley, published September 2024. Please register at: <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/events/69de930fbd5c392c76443bf9>.

Celebrate Historic Preservation Month with these Activities

May is Preservation Month! Celebrate all month long with a variety of events sponsored by Denton County and the City of Denton, in partnership with the Downtown Denton Foundation, Town of Flower Mound, City of Krum & Krum Heritage Museum, UNT CoLab, Hickory Creek Baptist Church & Old Alton Cemetery, and Northbridge Realty Holdings. For a complete schedule of events, scan the QR code or visit the City of Denton's website.

5/2 - Southridge Neighborhood Walking Tour - 10:30 a.m. - Southridge Neighborhood

5/6 - National Preservation Month Storytime - 10 a.m. - Emily Fowler Library

5/9 - Restoring the Krum Depot - A Journey Through Time - 1 p.m. - Krum City Hall

5/12 - Old Alton Cemetery Tour - 6 p.m. - Old Alton Cemetery

5/15 - Past, Present, and Future of the Fine Arts Theatre - 2 p.m. - Courthouse-on-the-Square

5/16 - Introduction to the Legacy Lab* - 10 a.m. - Emily Fowler Library

5/16 - Denton Historic Bar Tour* - 1-5 p.m. - Downtown Denton

5/29 - Denton Vintage Short Film Fest - 6:30 p.m. - UNT CoLab

5/30 - Spring Jubilee at the Gibson-Grant Log House - 10 a.m. - Gibson-

Grant Log House

* Registration or ticket required.



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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