

# DCGS News

## FIND YOUR PEOPLE: A GENEALOGY SCAVENGER HUNT

The Denton County Genealogical Society is excited to kick off the 2026-2027 program year! Join us for an interactive evening designed to connect you with fellow members, introduce you to the Society's benefits, and uncover local research resources you may not have discovered yet. The meeting will be held on September 10, 2026. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., with a brief business meeting and presentation beginning at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton. Visitors are welcome!



We'll start with a look at what membership has to offer, a preview of this year's exciting lineup of programs, and updates on the Texas State Genealogical Society and our special interest group, Roots Writers. You'll also learn about local genealogical research facilities that can help break down your brick walls. Then the real fun begins: put on your detective hat and join us for *Find Your People*, an interactive scavenger hunt that will have you meeting fellow members and exploring the library's resources — all while tracking down clues tied to your own family history!



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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/metapht12494/m1/1/> : 2 May 2023); citing Denton Public Library.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Eileen O'Neill

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer (in spite of the heat!) and is eager to start interacting with other members of DCGS again. We have an interesting set of programs planned for the year on a wide range of topics with excellent speakers. I hope each of you will be able to attend all of them.

DCGS offers an educational scholarship; the application is available in the Newsletter or you can contact me at [presidentdcdgs@gmail.com](mailto:presidentdcdgs@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Act quickly; the deadline is Sept. 10.

We are fortunate that the Texas State Genealogical Society is having its Family History Conference at the Riley Center in Ft. Worth, Nov. 6-7. There are livestreamed sessions and pre-recorded lectures so you can attend in person or virtually. Registration is open until October 22; registration for virtual attendance is open through Nov. 7.

If you are interested in preserving your family's stories, I would urge you to look into our special interest group, Roots Writers. This informal group meets the third Wednesday of each month from 11:00 am until 12 noon at the Emily Fowler Library to exchange information and gain insight into writing your stories.

If you haven't visited the DCGS website recently, our Webmaster and Publicity chair, Charlene Case, is working wonders. There is a section for Roots Writers that will provide info on their upcoming meetings. DCGS programs are announced as well. It is still a work-in-progress, and Charlene will be making changes as the year progresses. Visit [www.genealogydentontexas.org](http://www.genealogydentontexas.org).

See you at our September 10 meeting!

—Eileen O'Neill, President  
[presidentdcdgs@gmail.com](mailto:presidentdcdgs@gmail.com)

### Visit DCGS online



Facebook

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

Website

[www.genealogydentontexas.org](http://www.genealogydentontexas.org)

### 2026-270DCGS OFFICERS

#### President

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### TxSGS District 1 Representative

Nancy Gilbride Casey, [district1@TXSGS.org](mailto:district1@TXSGS.org)

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

Submissions always welcome at  
[newsletterdcdgs@gmail.com](mailto: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.

# MAY MEETING MINUTES AND REPORTS

*Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc., May 14, 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** Marian Carroll provided the membership report for the meeting on April 9, 2026, as follows:

Members attending in person – Emily Fowler 19

Members attending via ZOOM 4

Visitors attending in person – Emily Fowler 0

Visitors attending via ZOOM 1

Total attendance 24

**Secretary** 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** The financial report was published in the Newsletter and will be filed for audit.

**Social/Hospitality** Thanks to Marian for the treats tonight.

## **Old Business**

No old business presented.

## **New Business**

Roots Writers Special Interest Group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month. Beth Leggieri mentioned some of the topics discussed and advantages for members by attending.

## **Announcements**

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

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 September 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. for social time and 7:00 p.m. for the business meeting.

## **Program**

This is member research and discovery night. There will be four presenters: Titus Ek, Beth Leggieri, Sandra Robertson, and Stacie Briggs. These presentations were well received and appreciated! Please help put up tables and chairs at the conclusion.

**President's Last Word**—"Genealogist": A person who skillfully and imperceptibly turns a conversation to the topic of genealogy. Unknown – found on Family Tree Quotes."

President O'Neill adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

*—Respectfully Submitted by Robert Lane, Secretary*

## DCGS HAPPENINGS AND BUSINESS

### TREASURER'S REPORT

#### Report for Months of May-July 2026

|                              |          |                  |
|------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| <b>Balance 1 May 2026</b>    |          | <b>\$3306.17</b> |
| Dues & Awards                | \$475.00 |                  |
| <b>Total Deposits</b>        |          | <b>\$475.00</b>  |
| <b>Disbursements Balance</b> |          |                  |
| Dues, fees and Oher Orgs     | \$110.00 |                  |
| <b>Total Disbursements</b>   |          | <b>\$110.00</b>  |
| <b>Balance 31 July 2026</b>  |          | <b>\$3617.17</b> |

—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.



### **Connections: A Genealogy Discussion Group**

**Connections is currently on a hiatus until January. Meeting dates and time will be announced later in the fall or beginning of 2027. Please check back on website or this newsletter for updates later in the fall.**



## ROOTS WRITERS

Roots Writers provides an avenue for collaboration - whether you are new to writing or are a published author.

Meetings may include a range of topics, including:

- Discovering and exploring common threads in our research/writing
- Discussing the importance of historical context
- Learning more about useful tools - software programs, blog platforms, books/articles/websites, etc.
- Brainstorming - whether it is busting through a research brick wall or determining the most effective way to convey the story you want to share
- Discovering which publications, distribution system, or archival site best applies to our individual ancestral writing

An additional benefit of Roots Writers is that the small-group setting allows us to get to know one another better and learn what others are working on. Meeting times are the third Wednesday of the month from 11am-12pm in the library conference room.

**We learn from each other.**



The 2026 TxSGS Family History Conference, themed **"A Journey of Discovery"** will be held **Friday and Saturday, November 6-7**, at the Riley Center in Fort Worth, Texas. This will be both live and virtual. There are ten lectures over the two days as well as exhibitions, workshops, and many opportunities to meet fellow genealogists.

All **livestreamed** sessions will be recorded and available to registrants on demand following the conference. In addition, the conference includes an **additional 28 pre-recorded lectures**.

These sessions will be available online for 90 days following the conference, giving you the flexibility to learn at your own pace. For information, click on <https://www.txsgs.org/2026-conference>.

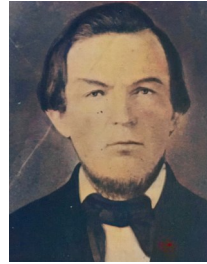
To register, click on <https://www.txsgs.org/2026-conference-registration-2/>.

## ANCESTOR QUESTION(S) OF THE MONTH

If you could time travel, which ancestor would you want to visit? Why would you choose that ancestor – something in particular about that person or the time period/location/historic event? Would you want to interact with the person in some way, or would you want to simply be an observer of their life, family interactions, etc.?

Grandfather Edward,

Rooted in generational colonial legacy, you spent your first fifty-eight years in central Virginia. An Early National Era entrepreneur, you owned mills, a slate quarry, an iron foundry, and agricultural enterprises. You also helped establish the extant Trinity Presbyterian Church, served as its Ruling Elder, and met civic obligations.



Edward Walton Sims (1800-1875) . Undated rendering by permission of Cumberland County (Virginia) Historical Society

Your migration to Missouri required leaving married daughters, while your eldest son established his family in Texas. Although extended kin earlier migrated to Missouri's Little Dixie region, did you ever reunite with those you left behind? What circumstances and convictions enabled you to abandon a lifetime of established ties and begin anew at nearly sixty years of age?

Only four years after your Missouri arrival, in 1862 the provisional governor appointed you county judge of Saline County. What qualities or relationships inspired such confidence? As an investor and community leader, how did you confront economic instability spawned by the financial fraud scheme to fund the Confederacy? And its subsequent disruption of guerrilla violence that afflicted civilians? How did you endure those upheavals while preserving your household and public responsibilities?

Known details reflect your resilience, leadership, and adaptation during one of the nation's most turbulent eras. I wish I knew more. ~Beth Leggieri

As an avid history lover, this is a difficult question. But, upon reflection, I would begin with my earliest-known ancestors in North America, the Handley family in the late 1600s on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, early settlers in Dorchester County. Observing the natural world at that time and place would be exceptional - the Chesapeake Bay (one of the world's largest natural estuaries), the trees, the wildlife, the night skies, the sounds and the silence... There are so many questions I would love to be able to answer about those early ancestors. When and where did they arrive in British Colonial North America? What did they hope to find? What kind of people were they? Would I like them? How were their interactions with each other and their neighbors? What did their homes look like? What were their daily lives like? How did they feed and care for themselves? What hardships did they face? What brought them joy? What were their fears? What values did they hope to instill in their children? How would they sum up their lives? What were their wishes for future generations? What advice would they give their descendants? ~Kathy Lawrence



<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3840.ct001244>

I think I would choose Captain James Mahan of the Revolutionary War, my 4th great grandfather. He was among my early (1980's) supplemental lines for DAR. His service included scouting among the Indians on the frontier; he spoke some of the Indian languages, making his connection even better. He reported on British troop movements as observed by his contacts. I would think his information was extremely helpful to the Patriot cause.

Born in 1755, Captain James was still a young man during the Revolution. I would like to observe him interacting with the natives. I would ask how he learned their language in order to communicate with them. [That may explain my fascination with foreign language study!] Captain James' family began in 1780 with my 3rd great grandfather Thomas Mahan who was killed, ironically, in Whitley County KY by an Indian.  
~ Mary Tate

I would time travel to 1880 Dickson County, Tennessee to visit my second great-grandparents Benjamin and Eliza Jane Thompson. In the 1860 US Census the couple lived in Venango County, Pennsylvania. In 1868, a daughter married in Trumbull Co. Ohio. In the 1870 US Census, Benjamin and Eliza Jane lived in Trumbull County, Ohio which shares its eastern border with Pennsylvania.

Sometime in the spring or early summer of 1872, Benjamin and Eliza Jane left their home in Trumbull County, Ohio and went with daughters Cordelia and Jane and their husbands Jesse and Henry Moore to Dickson County, Tennessee. Benjamin and Eliza left three adult children in Pennsylvania. Benjamin was about 63 and Eliza about 59 years old.

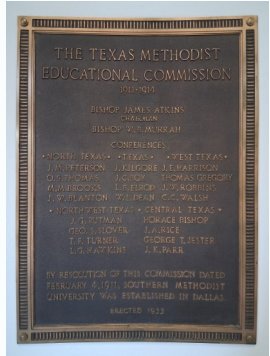
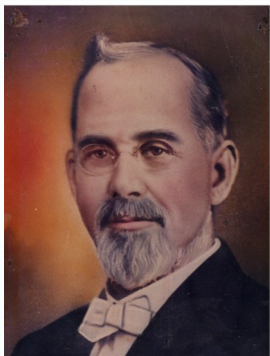
I would like to have a conversation with them about their decision to move to a new place. What did they think of the new home? Benjamin was a carpenter as well as a farmer. Did they build their house in Dickson County? The two couples they travelled with had eighteen children between them. I hope that the grandparents enjoyed seeing the children grow up in their new home.

~Sandra Roberson

I would have liked to have known my great-grandfather, Dr. Thomas Gregory (d. 1928). Through genealogical research, I have learned several details about his life but knowing him personally would have been incredible.

After arriving in America from England in 1890, he served as a Methodist minister in Gonzales and Lockhart, Texas. He also taught The History of Methodism during summer classes at Southwestern University in Georgetown. One of his crowning accomplishments was his role, along with 11 other men, in founding Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas. I had heard from a family member that a plaque listing the founders' names could be seen in SMU's first building, Dallas Hall (completed in 1915).

I recently stopped at SMU to visit Dallas Hall. With great anticipation, I walked into the building, found the plaque, and read my great-grandfather's name. I was awestruck. I thought about how, many years ago, he had walked within the building after it was completed. I sat on a bench inside the building to reflect on his legacy and realized that I wanted to learn more about him. I will not be able to know him personally, of course, but I will continue researching his story.  
~Missy McCormick

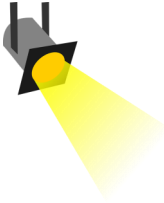


## ANCESTOR QUESTION(S) OF THE MONTH CONT'D



If I could time travel, I would travel to Grey Co., Canada West, in 1850, to talk to my 3x great-grandmother Dorah Darragh. She is central to many of my questions on my Darragh line and could give me answers to prove or refute my hypotheses. She could tell me where she and her family came from in Ireland; if Edward Elliot is her father, as I suspect; if Edward's wife Johanna was her mother, and if her maiden name was Dillane; what her first husband's first name was and where they married; where her son Edward Bristol was born; where she married second husband John Darragh; the names, genders, birth & death dates of three children she had with John that did not live to adulthood; whether sons Daniel and William were twins; and what her suspected mother Johanna died of. I'd also like to be a guest in the Darragh home, to see what their lives were like in Sydenham, where John was a turner. What did Dorah do in the home? What were her hopes and dreams for herself and her family? I hope my research will reveal some of these

answers someday. ~Nancy Gilbride Casey



## Member Spotlight

### Research Trip to Brownwood, Texas *By Stephen M. Booher, DCGS Member*

I recently visited Brownwood, Texas to research my third great-grandfather, Welcome William Chandler, (1813-1870), an early Texas settler who served as a farmer, merchant, postmaster, sheriff, and judge. The trip offered some of the most valuable discoveries I've made in more than 20 years of genealogy.

#### Exceptional Local Support

Thanks to an introduction from Laura Lacey at the Brown County Museum of History, I connected with Ruth Smith at the Brownwood Public Library. Ruth and historian Clay Riley prepared an impressive set of Chandler and Booher materials — including documents and stories I had never encountered before.

#### Historical Highlights

- The Old Jail, where Welcome Chandler is honored with a Texas historical marker
- New insights into his son-in-law, Jesse Sutton "Sut" Harris, a sheriff and Texas Ranger
- Visits to several ancestral graves
- A walk along the East Pecan Bayou, where Welcome himself once walked

#### Why It Matters

Brownwood's dedicated volunteers and well-preserved archives make it a valuable destination for anyone re-searching early Texas families. I'm preparing a full write-up for future DCGS publications so members can benefit from these excellent resources.

# LIBRARY PROGRAMMING, NEW BOOKS, & MORE

## New Books

Hamilton County, Ohio, Hospital Patient Records, 1837-1859 by Herbert, Jeffrey G.

Searching for Sisters Researching Catholic Nuns in the United States: A Guide for Genealogists and Historians by Morton, Sunny Jane

Find the Living Truth in Dead Records 17th Century Virginia Genealogy by Busby, Lynn Zacny

A Researcher's Guide to Virginia's Historical Records by Little, Barbara Vines

Scottish Baronial Families, 1250-1750 by Dobson, David

Vanished Post Offices of Washington County, Arkansas with Postmaster Profiles by Campbell, Denele

Irish Emigrants in North America Consolidated Edition, Parts One to Ten by Dobson, David

Muster Rolls and Other Records of Service of Maryland Troops in the American Revolution, 1775-1783 by Maryland Historical Society

Scan for a full list of new Special Collections items



**Family History Day** Friday, 16 October at Emily Fowler Central Library 9am-8:30pm



## FAMILY HISTORY DAY

Friday, October 16, 2026

We're partnering with libraries and genealogy societies across Texas to bring you eight presentations streamed throughout the day. Come and go as you please, stay for the full day, or watch virtually from home. One-on-one research help and Special Collections tours will also be available, with an after-hours research and collaboration session to cap off the day. Registration will open October 1, 2026.

## A Photographic Journey through North Texas Cemeteries

Thursday, 10/15, Emily Fowler Central Library 6:30 p.m.

Join Tui Snider (if you dare!) for a program highlighting North Texas's most fascinating cemeteries—from pioneer cairns and Wild West gunfighters to the nation's only murder memorial and the grave of an alleged space alien. Tui's new book *Buried Dallas-Fort Worth* will be available for purchase at the event. Learn more at [tuisnider.com](https://tuisnider.com).



**Progress Denied: A Virtual Visit from Author Hollie Teague** Saturday, 24 October; Emily Fowler Central Library @ 10:00 a.m.



Join us for a virtual presentation from TWU alumna Hollie Teague, PhD, on her new book *Progress Denied: Quakertown, White Supremacy, and the Illusion of Democracy in Denton, Texas, 1850-1925*. Visit her website at <https://hollieateague.com>. Note: This is a repeat program from July, as John Baines' funeral was the same morning as this program and there was a public request for another one.

## **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  
TX 76201**



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