

◆ DCGS NEWS ◆

Volume 17 No. 2

October 2003

October Program

Migration into the Upper Midwest: Michigan and Wisconsin



Linda Touraine will be the featured speaker at the October meeting focusing on the westward expansion of America. She will trace the migration routes to Michigan and Wisconsin, presenting a timeline on the relevant historical events affecting migration to this area of America.



- I. Call to Order
- II. "Migration into the Upper Midwest: Michigan and Wisconsin"
- III. Minutes & Treasurer's Report
- IV. Librarian's Report
- V. Special Projects
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Announcements

THE DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY MEETS ON THE
SECOND THURSDAY
DURING THE MONTHS OF
SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER
AND JANUARY - MAY.

7:00 P.M.
DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
NORTH BRANCH
3020 N. LOCUST ST.
DENTON, TEXAS



1896- Denton County Courthouse-1996

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to individuals, libraries or societies. Dues are \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for couples. The membership year begins in June and expires the following May. Members will receive the monthly newsletter, except for the summer months.

Members may submit article of interest. Please cite sources. Queries, reunion notices and book reviews will be also be accepted.

OCTOBER IS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

For the second consecutive year, the United States Senate unanimously designated October as Family History Month. More than 80 million Americans are believed to be actively searching for more information about their ancestors. This explosion of interest in family history is due, in part, to the advent of the Internet. An ever-growing number of institutions, libraries, and individuals in our nation and others are collecting, preserving, and sharing genealogies, personal documents, and memorabilia that detail the life and times of families around the world.

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY
PO Box 424707
DENTON, TX
76204

** OFFICERS **

BOB MCCOMBS	PRESIDENT
LINDA TOURAINE	VICE-PRESIDENT
HOLLY HERVEY	TREASURER
KATHY STRAUSS	SECRETARY
LINDA TOURAINE	LIBRARIAN
KATHY STRAUSS	NEWSLETTER
JUNE KNOX	PARLIAMENTARIAN



Minutes

The Denton County Genealogical Society held its regular monthly meeting on September 11, 2003, at the Denton Public Library North Branch, 3020 N. Locust St., Denton, Texas. The meeting was called to order by President, Bob McCombs. Twenty-five members were present.

Bob McCombs welcomed members to the first meeting of the year. Diana White had one correction for the May minutes; the proofreading project was for Birth Records, not Marriage Records. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as corrected. There was a discussion of the inventory of books reported in the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was approved. Linda Touraine gave the Librarian's Report. She said that the titles listed in the DCGS Newsletter were added to the Genealogy Collection at the Denton Public Library. These books were purchased at Recycled Books through contributions made from the Denton County Genealogy Society.

Holly Hervey reported on Special Projects. She said that there are four more packets of obituaries ready for look ups and that there are several still out that members took from last year. She explained the project for the benefit of new members. Members who take packets will be looking up obituaries in the Denton Record Chronicle microfilms to go with funeral home records.

In Old Business, Diana White reported that there are 9 1/2 pages to complete 1928 in the Death Book proof reading.

In New Business, it was announced that there will be a workshop on October 25 at Cedar Valley College in Lancaster, Texas. Lloyd Bockstruck will be the speaker. Holly Hervey and Willie Malone will take the Will Books and Death Books to sell at the workshop. There was a discussion of the need to update the letter the Denton County Genealogical Society sends to those requesting research assistance, giving hourly rates. Willie Malone said that she would work on the letter. Nancy Cantwell reported about an upcoming exhibit on illuminated manuscripts.

Gayle Maxson showed her new book titled *People of Old Celina Cemetery—Celina, Texas*. John Beck requested that the Denton County Genealogy Society meetings be listed in the Denton Record Chronicle. Linda Touraine will give the program at the next meeting on Migration into Michigan and Wisconsin.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:15 for a tour of the Genealogy Collection at the new North Branch Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Strauss, Secretary

Treasurer's Report



October 2003

Bank Balance August 31, 2003 \$1,975.32

Funds Deposited

Dues \$50.00

Interest Earned .40

Total Deposits \$50.40

Funds Disbursed

Postage \$37.00

Total Disbursed \$37.00

Cash on Hand September 30, 2003 \$1,988.72

2003-2004 Paid Members—38

Library Donations

Books bought April 1995 thru May, 2000 \$1,599.72

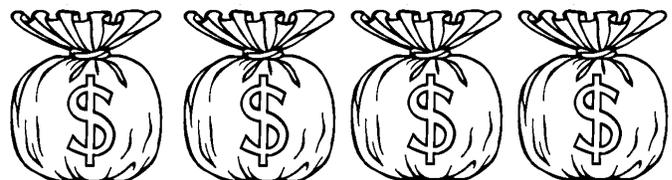
Books bought June 2000 thru May 2001 318.50

Books bought June 2001 thru May 2002 76.00

Books bought June 2002 thru May 2003 799.15

	Will Books/Cost	Death Books/Cost
Copies Sold *156	\$3,957.06	*123 \$2,779.72
Printing Cost 200	-1,618.62	300 -1,593.15
Consignment Fee	-390.00	-320.00
Postage	-379.31	-156.99
Sales Tax Paid	-113.93	-77.19
Advertising	<u>-101.00</u>	<u>-237.45</u>
Profit	\$1,354.20	\$ 394.94

Respectfully Submitted
Holly Hervey, Treasurer





BOOK REVIEW

By Holly Hervey

Texas 1850 Agricultural Census

In 1850 the Federal Government changed its method of enumerating the population. They wanted to know the names, sex, ages, and occupations of every resident of the household. They were also interested in marriage information. Previously, the enumeration consisted of the head of household's name and a breakdown of other residents by age only. The government also wanted to find out how many people had died in the year before the census so they created the Mortality Schedules. Since the majority of the country was rural the government wanted to find out what the farmers were doing with their land so they created the Agricultural Census. This meant that the census taker had several books to carry with him as he took his count of county residents.

Since no census taker has ever written his autobiography and explained the process he used in taking the census, it is left to us to use our imagination in determining his methodology. Apparently, he rode up to the house, got all his ledgers out and went into the house and sat down with whomever was there and obtained all the needed information. Hopefully it was the head of the household. He then wrote all the names, dates and figures down in his ledgers and went to the next household. At the end of the day, he went back home, or spent the night with the last family he had visited and continued on down the road the next day. When he completed all the enumerations in his district he went back home and began to transcribe all his census data into two other sets of ledgers, one for the county and one for the state. The last copy was the one sent to the federal government and by that time, the names seemed to become less important, so in some instances, he wrote only initials. This copy is the one we use to find our ancestors.

The Agricultural Census is basically a data sheet, made up of 46 columns that include the name of head of landowner, improved acreage, unimproved acreage, cash value of property, value of the farm implements and machinery and the value of the livestock. The other columns ask for the number of livestock by type, bushels of produce by product, cheese, maple sugar, honey, etc.

Linda L. Greene has transcribed and compiled the *Texas 1850 Agricultural Census* in a two-volume set, which includes all the counties in Texas at the time. Some of the Agricultural Census has not survived, example being Tarrant County. The author extracted only the name, improved and unimproved acreage, cash value of land, farm equipment and the livestock. How the landowner used his land still requires searching the original microfilm.

In reviewing this book, the writer used the 1850 Census of

Denton County published by SK Publications. This publication consists of copied images from the microfilm of the census. The Federal Census and the Agricultural Census begin at the same place and follow the route of the census taker, with the exception of some unknown detour in the middle. The extraction of names does not always match the names on the Federal Census so it pays to not give up after looking at only the index, which is at the back of each volume.

In spite of the name differences and the lack of data on the farm operations, the two volumes are of great value to the researcher who does not have time to spend the day cranking the microfilm reader searching for basic information. Knowing that the name is on the Agricultural Census makes it easier to find on the microfilm if more information is needed to round out the family records. Volume 1 covers Anderson through Hunt County. Volume 2 covers Jackson through Williamson County.

Heritage Books, Inc., published this two-volume set of *Texas 1850 Agricultural Census* and the books are available for purchase at Willow Bend Books, 65 E. Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157-5026, 1-800-876-6103 or www.willowbendbooks.com. The cost of each book is \$26.50. The review copies will be placed in the Denton Public Library.

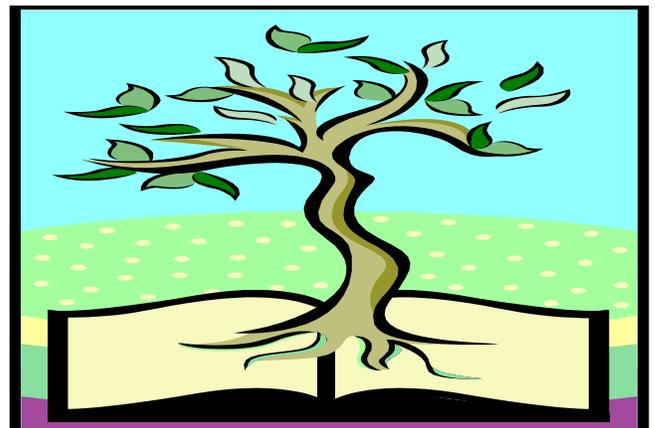


Letters . . .

Letters . . .

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James D. Mercer, 24 E. Main, Space 4, Greenbrier, AR 72058, is searching for information on James Mercer, b.1816 in NC or GA and his wife, Almeda Presley, b. Jan. 25, 1824 in Fayette, GA, d. Jan. 10, 1904, who was buried in Pilot Point, Texas. He is also interested in information on their descendants.



GENEALOGY TOP TENS

While looking through the internet for interesting genealogy websites and information, I was amazed at the number of Genealogy Top Ten's. These lists provide interesting tidbits of wisdom to help all those searching for their ancestors. In the next few months, I will be sharing some of these lists with you. This month's list is from professional genealogist, Kimberly Powell. I found her list in <http://genealogy.about.com>. Her list is:

TOP TEN GENEALOGY MISTAKES TO AVOID

MISTAKE TO AVOID #1: Don't Misspell the Word Genealogy.

MISTAKE TO AVOID #2: Don't Trust Everything You See in Print.

MISTAKE TO AVOID #3: We're Related to... Someone Famous.

MISTAKE TO AVOID #4: Don't Be Satisfied With Names and Dates.

MISTAKE TO AVOID #5: Beware the Generic Family History.

MISTAKE TO AVOID #6: Don't Accept Family Legends Without Question.

MISTAKE TO AVOID #7: Don't Limit Yourself to the Current Spelling of Your Surname.

MISTAKE TO AVOID #8: Don't Neglect to Write Down Your Sources.

MISTAKE TO AVOID #9: Don't Assume That Everything You Find on the Internet is Reliable.

MISTAKE TO AVOID #10: Don't Put Off Talking to Relatives.

Deadline
for
November
Newsletter is
October 31



Lectures & Seminars

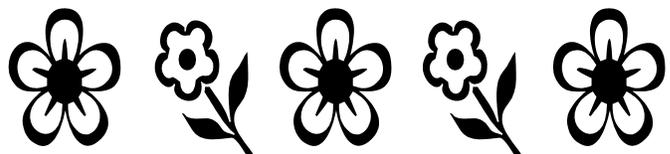
October 16, 2003—"Scrap Booking—The Basics"
Denton Public Library North Branch, 3020 N. Locust St., Denton, Texas Join consultant Anita Carty from 6-8pm for an introduction to scrap booking techniques and tips.

October 25, 2003—"Texas: the Lone Star State."
Dallas Genealogical Society Lecture Series. Performance Hall, Building E, Cedar Valley College, 3030 N. Dallas Ave, Lancaster, TX 75134. Registration 8:15 a.m.—9:00 a.m., Lectures 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Lecture contact: Shirley Sloat, Lectures@dallasgenealogy.org, 214-349-4718.

October 27-31, 2003—Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance (RIGS Alliance) workshop at the National Archives Southwest Region in Fort Worth. This workshop is designed for genealogists, historians, and librarians with a general genealogical or historical grounding who want to learn skills and techniques for researching original records at regional archives. Enrollment is limited. For details, visit the RIGS Alliance web site at: <http://RIGSAlliance.org>.

November 1, 2003 –Genealogy Fair, "Ancestry in Action," Fort Worth Central Library , 500 W. 3rd Street, Fort Worth, Texas. Sponsored by the Genealogy Department of the Fort Worth Public Library and Fort Worth Genealogical Society. 1:00—5:00 p.m. Classes and workshops in Beginning Genealogy, Preservation, Scrap Booking, and Online Genealogy. Register with Ms. Apley at sapley@fortworthlibrary.org.

November 7-8, 2003 — 43rd Texas State Genealogical Society Conference in Austin at the Hilton Austin Airport Hotel. Information at the TXSGS website, www.rootsweb.com/~txsgs.



Denton County Genealogical Society
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