

◆ DCGS NEWS ◆

Volume 19 No. 2

October 2005

OCTOBER MEETING

Thursday, October 13, 2005
6:30 p.m.—Social Time
7:00 p.m.—Program/
Business

PROGRAM

“Was your Grandmother an
Indian Princess?”
Kris Richens

Kris Richens is a genealogist, trainer and volunteer worker. She has completed a developing a genealogy training course for the McKinney Texas Family History Center. She teaches Genealogy Classes to the McKinney and Frisco Senior Citizen Center. These are courses that she developed for Senior Citizens. Kris moved to the DFW area from Deadwood, South Dakota in June 1997. Kris was trainer for the Family History Center in Rapid City, SD.. Kris owns and operates her own genealogical research company. Kris does research for many clients around the world. She assists attorneys in locating heirs to wills. Kris is has been President of the Garland Genealogy Society. She has completed a three year Genealogical Mission for the Family History Department in Salt Lake City, UT. She is past Director of the Aurora Family History Center where she had a staff of 43 volunteers. She is currently writing a book on How to do Native American Research.

Kris does workshops for many organization in: Using Family Search, (LDS Church software program), Military Records, Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Genealogy Workshops, and using Family Tree Maker and PAF software. Researching in the Southern United States and How to do Native American Research.

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 \$15.00 for individuals and \$25.00 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 welcome.

She has been a member of many Genealogical societies including, , Garland Genealogy Society (were she is the Past Computer Interest Leader and President. Colorado Genealogical Society Computer interest group, the National Genealogical Society, Utah Genealogical Society and an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution . Kris also has served 3 missions in the Genealogical Department for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

In addition to her work in genealogy, she is past-Vice-President of the Congressional Award Council of Colorado. She served in numerous positions in PTA both on a local level and District level, served as Administrative Lt. Governor in Toastmasters International and has received two Distinguished Toastmaster awards.

Kris is married with 4 children, Brian D. Richins, Computer guru in Newark, NJ. Carole Richins Seely and her husband are attending school in San Antonio, Texas, and are the parents of the cutest grandchildren in the world, Hayden and Tian. Cheryl Richins is volunteering for State of Texas, helping with evacuees. . Cristele Richins is employed by Comcast Cable in Colorado.
Kris married Keith Richins in 1972.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I hope you all are ready for our second meeting of the year to be held October 13, at the North Branch Library. Our speaker Kris Richens' topic is 'Was your Grandmother an Indian Princess?' I'm looking forward to it and I am sure Mary Jo has provided information on the speaker and topic elsewhere in the newsletter.

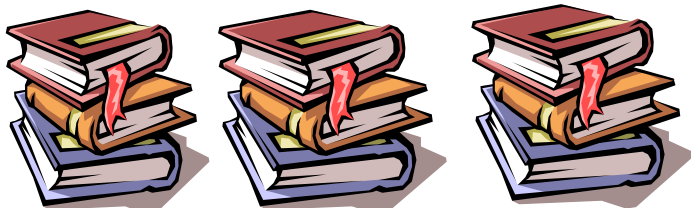
After last month's meeting, the society received information about Burnet County Genealogical Society's workshop in October. One of the sessions is 'Finding Your Roots with DNA' but the interesting part is that it is being done by someone who is the administrator of the Little surname DNA Project that just happens to be the surname of my grandfather on my mother's side. As the saying goes, it's a small world. I haven't done it yet but I do plan to contact him in the near future.

At one of the executive board meetings this summer, it was decided to do a fundraiser for the society. We want to present to you at the October meeting the idea of having a silent auction table at the November meeting. Members who wish to participate are to bring an item that is still useful and in good condition. At the meeting we can set perimeters for the items if you want. We thought this would be a good way to get some additional funds and well as help you do a little holiday shopping early.

There are still a few meetings that need volunteers to provide the refreshments and beverages for our 'get together' time before the business meeting and program. You can pair up for this so that no one person is responsible for everything. I will have the list at the meeting.

Look forward to seeing you October 13.

Linda



Sacred Harp Singings: Musical Ties to the Past

Your ancestors most likely attended or knew about singing schools, shaped notes, and sacred heart music.. The Sacred Harp tradition developed out of the singing school tradition. This began in New England in the 1700s, spread to the rural south, and finally to Texas. Sacred heart music is four-part, a capella (no instruments) singing of songs from a book called The Sacred Harp. The songs are old songs, some 200-300 years old, and they reflect the oral heritage of revival spirituals, ballads, and dance tunes of colonial America by way of England. The early singing masters wrote these old songs in such a way so that people who could not read music could learn to sing. They did this by giving "fa", "so", "la", and "me" each a different shape as a note. Thus, singers learned a tune by first singing the notes, then repeating the song with the lyrics.

Once, thousands attended these singing conventions, but after World War II, the numbers of participants decreased, perhaps due to the declining rural population and increasing urbanization. But in recent years there has been a resurgence of interest. The film "Cold Mountain" featured sacred heart singers from Alabama on the soundtrack. Radio and TV shows have examined the places and people who participate in these gatherings.

Although Texas Sacred Harp singing can be found as far west as Crosbyton, or as far south as Austin, the state stronghold of traditional Sacred Heart Singing is East Texas. Six East Texas counties are at the heart of this tradition: Gregg, Harrison, Panola, Rusk, Smith, and Upshur,

On August 13-14, 2005, hundreds of singers and observers gathered at the Henderson, TX Community Center for the 150th Anniversary of the East Texas Singing Convention. The singers came from a dozen states and several countries. They sat in a hollow square, basses facing sopranos, tenors facing altos, with the leader standing in the middle. Each song was led by a different man or woman. The singing started with a brief prayer and then commenced. The sound was wonderful and very powerful. Many singers kept time with their right hand. After three hours of singing in the morning, long lines formed to share "dinner on the ground"...table after table of home-made casseroles and desserts. Singing resumed around 1 p.m. and ran for two more hours.

What impressed me as an observer was the beautiful music, the friendliness, and the hospitality. As a genealogist, I was struck by how the song leaders might introduce a song with a brief history of their ancestors who sang these songs before them. The oral tradition of story telling with names, places, and events flowed along with the old songs.

Historical items such as old photos and songbooks were displayed in a glass case. Music CDs, historical books, songbooks, and cookbooks were for sale. One book *Approaching 150: A Brief History of the East Texas Musical Convention and Sacred Harp in Texas* is a treasure trove of genealogical information with its many pages of biographies of singing convention officers and leaders, past and present. For more info there are numerous websites including

www.texasfasola.org

(Contributed by Anita Cowan)



News From The Library

The Genealogy and Special Collections Division was extremely busy during the last two weeks of September. Hurricane Rita was supposed to pass through Denton with lots of rain and high winds. Since the Emily Fowler Library sits on a flood plain, and since the Genealogy collection is on the ground floor, we had to move the collection to higher ground as an emergency measure. Thankfully, Hurricane Rita took an early turn north, and we had no rain at all. We worked tirelessly to restore the collections to the shelves, and it is now back to its original condition. We learned many valuable lessons during the move, and hopefully we will not have to repeat such a move again. But...we will be better prepared to face such an event, having had a dress rehearsal!

More new books are being processed, and will be on the shelf soon. We are now in a new fiscal year, and if anyone has any requests for materials in a certain area, please let Kathy Strauss know, and we will try to order them.

There will be a program about Ancestry Library Edition on October 22, 2005 at the North Branch Library at 3:00. Register for this program and learn the secrets of searching for your ancestors. Register at the Emily Fowler Library Genealogy Reference Desk, or by calling 940-349-8713.

Treasurer's Report



Denton County Genealogical Society
Treasurer's Report
September 30, 2005

Balance July 31, 2005	\$ 961.05
Funds Deposited	
Dues	\$ 170.00
Death Book (3)	75.00
Lock-in Registration	235.00
Interest	<u>.13</u>
Total Deposits	\$ 480.13
Funds Disbursed	
Consignment Fee	\$ 20.00
Lock-in Expenses	177.39
Postage	<u>37.00</u>
Total Disbursement	\$ 234.39
Balance September 30, 2005	\$1,206.79
2005-2006 Paid Members—39	
Library Donations	
April 1995 - May 01	\$1,918.22
June 2001 - May 02	76.00
June 2002 - May 03	799.15
June 2003 - May 05	83.15
Birth Books Sold (50)	\$1,600.00
Printing Cost (200)	-2,049.13
Postage	-118.69
Sales Tax Paid	-104.78
Advertising (1)	<u>-30.00</u>
Profit	\$ -702.60
Death Books Sold (136)	\$3,104.72
Printing Cost (300)	-1,593.15
Consignment Fees	-390.00
Postage	-156.99
Sales Tax Paid	-77.19
Advertising	<u>-237.45</u>
Profit	\$ 649.94

Respectfully Submitted, Holly Hervey, Treasurer

Programme

North Branch Library
7:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Program—"Was Your Grandmother an Indian Princess?"
- III. Business Meeting
- IV. Special Projects
- V. Announcements



Minutes

DCGS met in the meeting room of the Denton Public Library North Branch. We enjoyed refreshments and socialized with the 28 people present from 6:30-7:00 p.m.

President, Linda Touraine called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. for a short business meeting. The executive board minutes for the summer session, the current newsletter, and the treasurer's report were approved. Linda passed out a membership list and asked for any necessary corrections. Each member was encouraged to update the roster to include additional states and surnames currently being researched. Members were asked to sign up to provide refreshments for future meetings. Linda reminded us that the newsletter would be available at our new website. www.rootsweb.com/~txdcgs/ Thank you to Chris Strauss for developing the website. Members with email addresses will be notified by email when the newsletter is ready for viewing at the website. If you do not have an email address, you will still receive your copy through the mail.

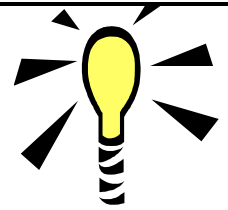
Vice-President, Mary Jo Bruce, introduced Sue Waite-Langley, our speaker for the evening. Mrs. Langley guided us through a slide presentation on genetic genealogy and the importance of DNA in the area of family research. DNA technology will preserve your genetic image for future surname projects. The speaker was generous with her time and answered questions and responded to all comments presented by the membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Simms, Secretary



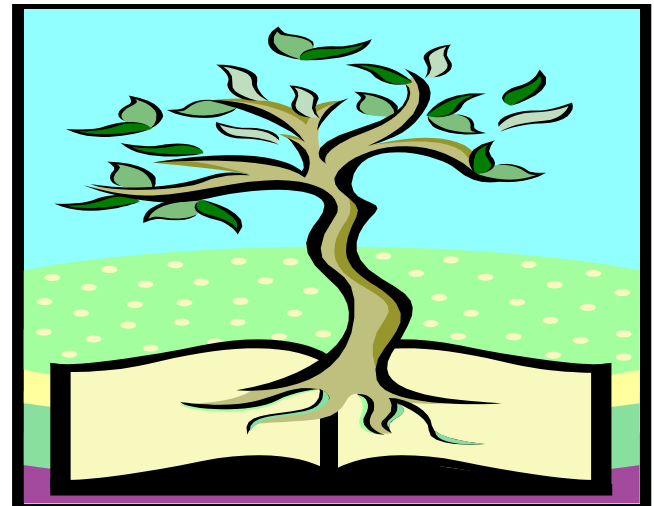
**THIS
&
THAT**



Workshops

October 22, 2005—3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Ancestry Library Edition—Denton Public Library
North Branch, 3020 N. Locust St. Denton, TX.

October 29, 2005 — 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
A Genealogy Potpourri—Burnet County Genealogical Society and Herman Brown Free Library.



DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY
PO Box 424707
DENTON, TX
76204

**** OFFICERS ****

LINDA TOURAINE	PRESIDENT
MARY JO BRUCE	VICE-PRESIDENT
HOLLY HERVEY	TREASURER
MARILYN SIMMS	SECRETARY
KATHY STRAUSS	LIBRARIAN
KATHY STRAUSS	NEWSLETTER
DIANA WHITE	PARLIAMENTARIAN
BOB MCCOMBS	IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

October is Family History Month

According to Curt Witcher, manager of the Historical Genealogy Department of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, "the concept of designating October as Family History Month began several years ago. It originated with the Monmouth County Genealogical Society, whose aspiration was that during this month, societies would do something special to draw attention to and promote family history. Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia all passes 'proclamations' in the last few years declaring October as Family History Month. At the last NGS board meeting, the NGS board officially endorsed the concept and will use the NGS News-magazine to promote the idea."

Here are some suggestions to promote and celebrate Family History Month in Denton and at home.

- ◆ Volunteer to help preserve Denton history and records by working on a special packet you can pick up at the Denton County Genealogical Society.
- ◆ Volunteer in the Genealogy and Special Collections Division at the Denton Public Library.
- ◆ Visit the Denton County museums and learn something about your community.
- ◆ Help the Genealogy Collection at the Denton Public Library grow by making a memorial donation in honor of you ancestor.
- ◆ Submit an article on Denton or Denton County history to the DCGS News.
- ◆ Invite a friend to the DCGS meeting.
- ◆ Go to the Surgeon General's website: www.hhs.gov/familyhistory and fill out the "My Family Health Portrait." Tracing the illnesses suffered by your parents, grandparents, and other blood relatives can help your doctors predict the disorders to which you may be at risk and take action to keep you and your family healthy.
- ◆ Attend a genealogy workshop and learn something new.
- ◆ Label your family photographs with the names of people in the pictures. Take your photographs out of boxes and preserve them in acid-free, ar-

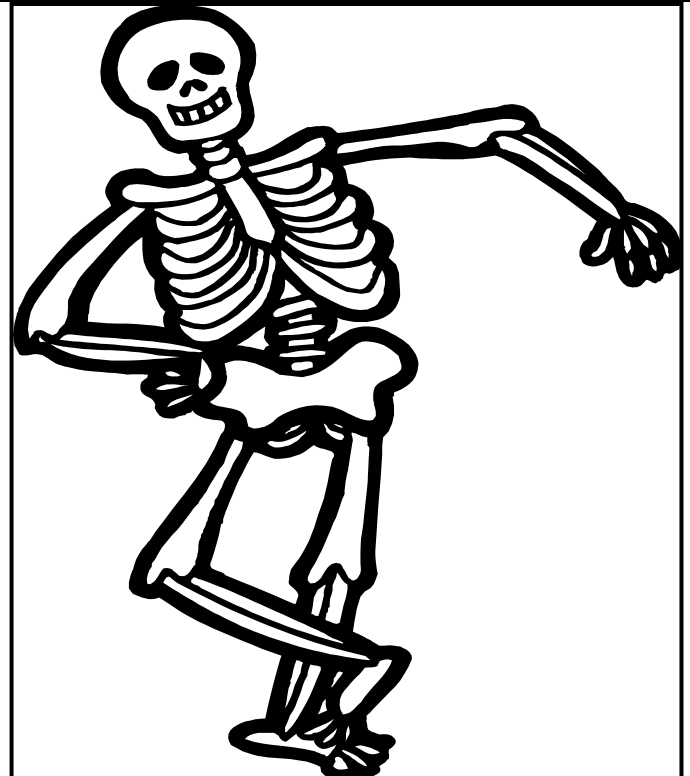
chival-quality sleeves and binders.

- ◆ Cook a "family dinner" using old family recipes. Combine this with a family get-together to share family stories. Record these stories and put them on a CD for everyone.
- ◆ Read some of those genealogy books that are gathering dust on your shelves, or if you no longer need them, donate them to the library or give them to a family member.
- ◆ Organize your research by cleaning up the piles of paperwork on your desk!

Most of all, Celebrate...do something for yourself, your family, and your community!

IS THERE A SKELETON IN YOUR CLOSET?

Check out the display at the Denton Public Library Department. There are books about famous and infamous ancestors, horse thieves, criminals, immigrants in bondage, and all sorts of notorious characters! Have you ever found one of these "skeletons" in your genealogy closet? Tell us about it in the next issue of the newsletter. Submit your stories to Kathy



Denton County Genealogical Society
PO Box 424707
Denton, TX 76204