

DCGS NEWS

D E N T O N C O U N T Y G E N E A L O G I C A L S O C I E T Y

JANUARY MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2006



1896- Denton County Courthouse-

The Denton County Genealogical Society meets on the second Thursday during the months on September-November and January-May. 6:30 P.M.

Denton Public Library, Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland St., Denton, TX 76201

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Program:

“The Invisible Internet: Finding Your Ancestors in Digital Collections and Databases”

Did you know that search engines such as Google only index the "surface internet?" While general search engines index over a billion pages, it's estimated that the actual amount of content on the internet is over 500 billion pages. These "hidden" pages are known as the dark web,

invisible internet or deep web. Come to the January meeting to discover new ways of accessing information about your ancestors online - valuable leads that will never show up in a general internet search on Google or Yahoo.

Speaker Dreanna Belden holds a Masters in Information Science, specializing in the creation and delivery of digital content. She works for the University of North Texas Libraries' Portal to

Texas History program, a digital gateway that provides access to the rich primary source collections held in Texas museums, libraries, archives, historical societies and private collections.



NEW MEETING PLACE

The Denton County Genealogical Society will meet in a new location beginning with the January meeting. The meeting will take place at the newly renovated Emily Fowler Central

Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, TX. The Genealogy Collection is housed at the same location, and members are encouraged to take advantage of the time to do research prior to the

meeting. There are many new materials in the collection, and if you have not seen the new Genealogy Room, come early for a short tour!

P R E S I D E N T ' S C O L U M N

The New Year is here and I hope you all had a joyous holiday season. In some ways, I found it too long, and other ways, too short, but I have no real complaints. Unfortunately, I ended the year without doing some of the things I wanted to do—such as some genealogical research. I just keep running out of time or else I just move too slowly these days to have the time to devote to my research. I hope some of you got to do some research or take some trips for genealogy research and were

successful in finally finding that relative that has been eluding you for a long time. We will look forward to hearing about some of the success stories at a future meeting.

I hope you all remember that our meeting place has changed and that the January 12th meeting is at the Emily Fowler Central Library, with our gathering time starting at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and the program at 7:15 p.m. If you didn't get my email with the official

notification of the change, hopefully someone in the society has told you. Otherwise, you now know through the newsletter.

I'm looking forward to our January program with our guest speaker, Dreanna Belden. Anything we learn that helps us in our research for our ancestors, whether now or in the future is always worth learning and hearing about. It's amazing how we can stick some hint or idea back in a corner of our brain thinking we'll

never need or use that tidbit, but all of a sudden, it is just what we need or what we use to find a vital piece of information in our research. So, my advice is to never dismiss a program by thinking 'it has nothing for me' because if you do, you'll be losing an opportunity to learn something new.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in 2006 at our January meeting.

Linda

T R E A S U R E R ' S R E P O R T

Balance October 31, 2005
\$ 1,287.09

2005-2006 Paid Members—42

Funds Deposited

Silent Auction \$ 158.00
Interest 17
Total Deposits \$ 158.17

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

Death Books Sold (13) \$3,104.72
Printing Cost (300) 1,593.15
Consignment Fees 390.00
Postage 156.99
Sales Tax Paid -77.19
Advertising 237.45
Profit \$ 649.94

Funds Disbursed

TSGS Dues \$ 25.00
FGS Dues 35.00
Photocopies 9.47
Total Disbursements \$ 69.47

Birth Books Sold (51) \$1,635.00
Printing Cost (200) 2,049.13
Postage 118.69
Sales Tax Paid 104.78
Advertising (1) 30.00
Profit \$ 667.60

Balance December 31, 2005
\$1,375.79

Respectfully Submitted, Holly Hervey, Treasurer



MINUTES – NOVEMBER 2005 MEETING

The Denton County Genealogical Society met in the meeting room of the Denton Public Library North Branch on November 10, 2005. Martha Lynn Nelson provided wonderfully prepared refreshments served with spiced tea for the 6:30 to 7:00 social time. The thirty people in attendance enjoyed nibbling on refreshments, mingling with one another and participating in the "Silent Auction" planned for the evening. We had two tables filled with items for bidding during the auction. Items purchased were paid for at the end of the meeting.

President Linda Touraine called the group to order

at 7:06 and presided over our business meeting. Because many members did not have an opportunity to see the minutes and treasurer's report printed in last month's Newsletter, Linda asked us to approve or correct the minutes and treasurer's reports for both September and October. The reports were all approved as circulated. Kathy Strauss asked that we get information for the January Newsletter to her by the end of November or the first week in December. Holly Hervey made a motion that we change our meeting place to Emily Fowler Public Library starting in

January 2006. Diana White seconded the motion. After a vote of 20 to 2, with some abstaining, we agreed to meet at the new location. Linda Touraine reminded us that she would send out an email confirming the new location. Kathy Strauss announced that she would consider hosting another genealogy session on a Friday evening probably in February for people wanting to do research at the library.

At 7:25, Vice-President Mary Jo Bruce introduced Jane Routt Power, a fourth-generation Texan, a genealogist, researcher, lecturer, and our speaker for the meeting. Her

presentation "Finding Grandma Lacy" was delightful. The 45-minute program gave pertinent information through a realistic and factual search of one of her ancestors. By evening's end, we all felt a renewed energy to trace one of the "road blocks of people lost" we've all faced in our family searches. The program was over at 8:10 and the meeting was adjourned so that people could make one last bid on the silent auction items.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Simms,
Secretary

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Denton Public Library Genealogy and Special Collections Department will be holding a Beginning Genealogy class on Thursday, January 19th at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room at the Emily Fowler Central Library. If you're a beginner, this is the class for you. You will learn about genealogy basics, reference tools, and electronic databases.

Experienced genealogists wishing to brush up on research skills will also find the class informative.

There will be a Genealogy After Hours Program on February 24 at 6:00 p.m. Come for a light supper, a wonderful speaker, and valuable research time. Lela Evans will speak about the TxGEN Web Project. The program is sponsored

by the Denton County Genealogical Society and the Denton Public Library. There will be a \$10.00 registration fee.

For both of these programs, please call to register, 940-349-8713.

THIS AND THAT

How Old Were You When You Started Doing Genealogy?

There has been an interesting discussion on the GeneaLib mailing list recently. Many people have been submitting the stories about how old they were when they began doing genealogy. This would be an interesting series for our own newsletter. Please submit your story for future issues. I (Kathy Strauss) thought I would start with my own story...

I was fairly young, maybe 9 or 10 when I started asking my mother about some of her family history. She showed me the short published genealogies on two of her family lines. I was fascinated to find my name published in both of these, and that is when the questions started. I quizzed my mother on who the people were in the genealogies, and how they were related to us. Throughout my young adulthood, I would often get these genealogies out and read them again, especially when a grandparent passed away.

It wasn't until I was a librarian, working in the Reference Department in Denton that I started working on my own genealogy in earnest. I basically did this to learn the process, in order to help the patrons who came into the library. The more I did, the more hooked I became. I was

learning my ancestors' stories, reading history, and seeing how my family fit into the big picture. I soon found that I was spending a lot of my free time driving to the National Archives in Fort Worth to look at census records. I made visits to the Dallas Public Library, and ultimately I convinced my husband that we needed to go back home to Ohio so I could go to courthouses and cemeteries. Even after I moved from reference work, I continued to pursue genealogy, and became involved in speaking, teaching, and writing. I helped to organize the Texas Library Association Genealogy Interest Group, and started to work more on a professional level.

Needless to say, I have my dream job now...working in the genealogy field is so rewarding. I have learned so much in order to help others...and to help in my own never-ending search for my ancestors. (Kathy Strauss)

Humor

Chuck King in Albers, Illinois

A long time ago I was telling my 10-year-old son about genealogy and showing him some of the obituaries of folks from our family. One entry said John King died of consumption. My son gasped and said, "You mean somebody ate him?"

Genealogy Story

Living for Centuries —

Vicariously. By J.P. Sherman

I stopped to visit my elderly parents, who were still in good enough health to maintain their own home. My first order of business was to share my latest genealogy findings with my mother who always enjoyed listening to details of our family history.

My nearly 90-year-old father, an unassuming man from the "old school," looked up from the game of solitaire he was playing and remarked to me, "Why do you bother with that genealogy stuff? Those people are all dead and gone."

"Well," I replied, nodding to the cards he had laid out on the table before him, "it doesn't have all the intrinsic value of a good game of solitaire, but I like it."

He thought for a moment and then said, "No, really, who do you bother with it?"

"I'll tell you why," I answered. "With all that you learn in the process—the history, the greater perspective on life and all, it's like you get to live three hundred years—but without all the aches and pains."

My father reflected on my answer for a moment and then remarked (apparently satisfied with the reason given for my genealogical passion), "You know, I'll bet that would be interesting!"

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THIS AND THAT

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Denton Public Library—January 19, 7:30 p.m., Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland St. Please call 940-349-8713 to register.

February 24—Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland St., Denton, Genealogy After Hours, 6:00 p.m. \$10.00 registration fee. Call 940-349-8713 to register.

Dallas Genealogical Society—Lecture Series: (held at the Dallas Central Library, 1515 Young Street—pre-registration needed)

February 4—Methods and Sources for Online Research:

lecturer Karen Clifford, AG

March 4—Immigration & Urban Research: lecturer Gladys Friedman Paulin, CG

McKinney Memorial Public Library—February 4, 3:00 p.m. “Obituaries, There’s More ‘Tomb’ Than Meets the Eye,” by William “Bill” Dow.

Quick Tips

Researching Siblings by Gill Middleton

I have certainly found researching siblings very informative in my case. I was unable to read “mother’s maiden name” on a birth certificate. Everyone I knew had studied the document, come up with different ideas, and I tried every available (so I thought) variation all without success.

When the 1851 census came on line we found another sibling previously unknown, ten years older, found and sent for the birth certificate and hey presto, in beautiful handwriting mother’s maiden name. We could of course read the original document when we knew what the name was but would never have found it in a million years by guesswork.

Post-Christmas Review of Cards—by Louise Hawley

On a quiet afternoon following Christmas, my husband and I go through our fairly large stack of Christmas cards, gleaning all sorts of tidbits that we can put into the “notes” section of our family files. We also receive many Christmas letters, and some of these have really nice details for our files. Our goal is that a hundred or so years from now, anyone finding this treasure trove will be able to think of us all as more than just the dash between our birth and death dates.

We also take care that our own Christmas letter provides others with a little something of genealogical interest for their files. Yesterday, we went through some of the items received in prior years, recalling some of the incidents recounted, like the time a cousin and his wife were hiking with their little dog in the hills of Arizona. The dog disappeared. They later learned that it had become lunch

for a coyote. We wonder what descendants will make of that in the next century!

Connect Through Online Resources—by Neil Hibbert

Before I do any original research, I connect myself to the community for that person in every way possible. I check message boards, use Ancestry’s connection service & member directory, check RootsWeb Mailing Lists, Webpages, USGenWeb, and especially the submitters of the trees in AWT/WFT. Recently, I emailed a person who had submitted a tree for a family, he referred me to his sister who had a book someone typed at home and had sitting on his home shelf—it was unpublished. I contacted her, she agreed to send me a copy, and now, I have almost 100 pages of stories about how and why this family came to America! Until we exhaust every nook and cranny of available connections, we never really know what we might find! I truly found a gold mine of information.



DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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