

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



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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MARCH MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2006

Program: Map and Grave Dowsing

Our featured speaker for the March program will be Vernell Boyd from Pinehurst, Texas. She has been a member of the American Society of Dowsers since 1994, serving in various capacities within that organization. Vernell has coordinated "Bird's Eye Overview of What Dowser's Do" for national conventions, and has spoken at Med-

South, Mid-West, and West Coast national conventions.

Grave dowsing is often used to locate unmarked graves. It uses the same techniques that are used to locate water. Grave dowsing is of particular interest to genealogists who have been unable to locate the family plot where their ancestors were buried.

During this hands-on program, we will learn the basic techniques of dowsing, learn some of the history of dowsing,

and discover how we can put some of our new skills into practice.



RIDERS ON THE ORPHAN TRAINS

The Denton Public Library will host a program on the "Riders on the Orphan Trains" on Sunday, March 26, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the Emily Fowler Central Library. This program is funded in part by a grant from Humanities Texas.

Novelist Alison Moore and

musician Phil Lancaster will combine literature, music and audio visual components in the one-hour program that is designed for general audiences of all ages.

Between 1854 and 1929, over 250,000 orphans and unwanted children of the

urban poor from New York City were "placed out" on trains heading west by the Children's Aid Society of New York.

All are welcome to attend this interesting program about a largely-unknown chapter in American History.

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

Once again the month has flown by (at least for me it has) and, as is becoming a bad habit, I have so many things that I need to do but it seems I don't get any of them done. I certainly hope all of you are more successful in your projects than I am.

For those of you that attended the *After*

Hours Genealogy session on February 24, I hope you found it enjoyable and were able to find some your elusive relatives. We had a good crowd, including quite a few new faces. A little welcomed rain never interferes with a genealogist's plans.

I don't know if the Nominating Committee

has gotten a slate of officers for us to vote on at the May meeting yet but I hope that when you are asked to serve, you say 'YES'.

Our program for this month should be an interesting one

See you at the meeting.

Linda



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

<p>Balance January 31, 2005 \$ 1,377.80</p> <p>Funds Deposited</p> <p>Dues \$ 15.00</p> <p>Library Lock-in 310.00</p> <p>Interest <u> .18</u></p> <p>Total Deposits \$ 325.18</p> <p>Funds Disbursed</p> <p>Speaker Fees \$ 90.00</p> <p>Lock-in Expenses <u>139.74</u></p> <p>Total Disbursements \$ 229.74</p> <p>Balance February 28, 2006 \$1,473.24</p> <p>2005-2006 Paid Members—45</p>	<p>Library Donations</p> <p>April 1995 - May 02 \$1,994.22</p> <p>June 2002 - May 03 799.15</p> <p>June 2003 - May 05 83.15</p> <p>Birth Books Sold (52) \$1,670.00</p> <p>Printing Cost (200) -2,049.13</p> <p>Postage -118.69</p> <p>Sales Tax Paid -104.78</p> <p>Advertising (1) <u>-30.00</u></p> <p>Profit \$ -632.60</p> <p>Death Books Sold (136) \$3,104.72</p> <p>Printing Cost (300) -1,593.15</p> <p>Consignment Fees -390.00</p> <p>Postage -156.99</p> <p>Sales Tax Paid -77.19</p> <p>Advertising <u>-237.45</u></p> <p>Profit \$ 649.94</p>
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Respectfully Submitted, Holly Hervey, Treasurer



MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2005 MEETING

The Denton County Genealogical Society met in the meeting room of the Denton's Public Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, TX. on February 09, 2006. Willie Malone and Helen and John Beck provided delicious refreshments with a special hot orange, spiced drink for the 6:30 to 7:00 social time. The twenty-nine people in attendance enjoyed sampling the great refreshments, mingling with one another before the program started. President Linda Touraine called the group to order at 7:00 and presided over our business meeting. Guests were acknowledged and welcomed warmly. The minutes for the January meeting and the treasurer's report were both approved. Linda asked for help with the April meeting of DCGS. We need someone to provide us with refreshments and someone to provide transportation for our speaker for the April 13, 2006

meeting. Kathy Strauss told us about some new materials for the library that should be very helpful for all to use with our research in different counties around the United States. Bob McCombs made a motion stating that DCGS would match up to 10 copies per year of any book on a particular county that a member wanted to donate/purchase for the library. Diana White seconded the motion and it carried with the membership. For more exact information, contact Kathy Strauss at Emily Fowler Library 940-349-8713. A nominating committee was appointed for determining the DCGS officers for next year. Diana White will chair the committee and Marilyn Simms will take notes. Mona Carrico, John Beck and Diane Abner also volunteered to serve on the committee.

We were reminded about the "Genealogy After Hours" event at Emily Fowler Library from 6 to 11pm on Friday February 24th. There will be a \$10 fee to cover pizza, soda etc. Lela Evans, TXGenWeb Project, will be our speaker and computers will be available for our use. At 7:20, Vice-President Mary Jo Bruce introduced Albert Hickman, our speaker for the evening. His presentation entitled "After Their Spirit Left" was very informative and stressed the valuable use of Funeral Home records. The speaker's use of his family's personal records offered insights into exactly what information could be found through the ledgers often kept at funeral homes and monuments companies. If you are having trouble locating a cemetery, "ask at the local funeral home" was just one of several helpful hints given by Mr. Hickman. He reminded us that funeral

homes have available books listing other funeral homes around the country and would be happy to share that information with you. Two of the books he mentioned using from various Funeral Homes *American Blue Book of Funeral Directors* and the *Red Book of Funeral Directors*. He also recommended using unfolded #9 envelopes for self-addressed and stamped enclosures in the regular #10 envelopes you generally use when requesting a response in the mail. Mr. Hickman ended with his email address RKHICK@Flash.net for further help. The program was over at 8:45; we rushed to take down chairs/tables and exit the building by nine o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Simms, Secretary

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Our new land record books from Arphax publishing have arrived. They are being processed, and will soon be out on display.

If you would like to volunteer some on your time working in the Special Collections department, please call 349-8713, or drop by the department. We have a list of projects of all types, including preservation, indexing, and

data-entry. Everyone is welcome.

Please join us the "Riders on the Orphan Trains" program on Sunday, March 26 at 2:00 p.m. at the Emily Fowler Central Library.

The "Genealogy After Hours" night was a complete success. Lela Evans gave an interesting program on the TXGenWeb project. Attendees had plenty

of time to work on their research, using some of the new resources that were explained in the program. We plan to make this a semi-annual event.



THIS AND THAT

LECTURES AND SEMINARS

Friday, March 17, 12:15 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Commissioners Courtroom, Courthouse on the Square, Denton, Texas. "The Famous and Infamous Buried in North Texas Cemeteries" by author, Bill James. Local author Bill James will discuss famous lawmen and outlaws, including two gunfighters, buried in North Texas cemeteries. Mr. James is the author of *Jim Miller, The Untold Story of a Texas Badman*. Mr. James will have copies of his book available for sale.

ANCESTRY QUICK TIPS

Recorded Interviews Bring Back Memories
by Robert McLain

I have been interested in oral histories and personal interviews for quite a while and I have gotten better at setting them up so that I get a quality tape. Recently though, I was taking out some of the first tapes that I had started with to transfer them over to the computer and burn to a CD. I discovered that I really had gotten better at it, but I also found something that I was missing. The first time I had ever tried to record some of the family stories on tape I had simply put a pocket recorder on the table where all the aunts and uncles were sitting after lunch. They started telling stories, laughing, and having a great time just like so many family get-togethers that I remember. Listening to that tape it was hard to pick out some of the stories because so many people were trying to talk at one time, but the laughter and good times made

it all seem so real and brought back many memories of the whole family being together. It is wonderful to have your aunts, uncles, parents, and grandparents tell their story while you record it, but you need to have these "impromptu" sessions to put some life into those stories.

The Bigger Picture

by Kaaran Martin

If the cemetery is small, take a picture of the whole cemetery. I did this in 1975 of a small cemetery in Mississippi. Later natural disasters and vandalism disrupted the cemetery, and this photo helped to put grave markers back in the correct place.

So do take photos of entire cemeteries when possible, because you never know when that photo may be the only record for grave locations.

Bicycle Maps

by Chris Smudde

About six or seven years ago, I was able to obtain some free bicycling maps put out by the Secretary of State's office. There were five maps total, each being the size of a regular road map, and covering a region consisting of one-fifth of Illinois. Upon examination I noticed that these maps very detailed--especially in the rural areas--than any Illinois map I had ever seen. Many gravel and farm roads were indicated, and the suitability of the road for cycling was marked (a good indication of the overall quality of the roads). These maps are of great value navigating the many back roads of farm country trying to locate obscure private cemeteries. I don't know if these maps are still produced in Illinois, but it's definitely worth checking with your Secretary of State or Department of

Transportation.

Aluminum Foil and Unreadable Headstones

by Jim and Flo Hartley

If you have a headstone that is old and nearly impossible to read, try this.

If you have a partner, have your partner hold a sheet of aluminum foil on the face of the stone. Take a four-inch paint-roller (the kind used to cut in corners) and gently roll across the foil sheet. It is sometimes possible to retrieve the information as the roller fills in the engraved impressions on the stone.

Jim and Flo Hartley

More on Surrounding Headstones

Marie Moller

I advise folks to look at headstones around their family plot and either take pictures or write the names down for future reference.

When I got the interment list for a family in one grave, there was a notation on the bottom that my great-grandfather had been moved to that plot from another. I visited the grave from which he had been moved. It had no headstone, but I wrote the names on the headstones around that site for future information.

Later in my research I found that the grave next to it was where my great-great-grandparents were buried. At the time of my visit I did not know their last names. It seems when my great-great-grandmother buried my great-great-grandfather she had my great-grandmother by the grave next to it. Had I not taken that information down, I never would have made the connection. It turned out that several graves in the vicinity were those of family members with names I did not know at the time of my visit.

THIS AND THAT

100 Years Ago: San Francisco Earthquake Hits

LONG-LOST LETTERS GIVE FRESH LOOK AT THE 1906 SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE.

The California Genealogical Society announces a new book published to coincide with San Francisco's earthquake's centennial year. Dorothy Fowler's work, "A Most Dreadful Earthquake: A First-Hand Account of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire," presents the vivid personal letters of a young San Francisco woman to her sweetheart in Schenectady, New York.

The ribbon-bound packet of 40 faded letters, written between February and July 1906, turned up in the archives of California Genealogical Society in 1998, with little to identify the writers or to explain how the letters came to the society. Now, 100 years later the author details the painstaking search to learn more about Sarah Elizabeth PHILLIPS and the Mr. JONES she planned to marry.

Sarah's account begins dramatically in the early hours of April 18, 1906, when "we were awaked by a most dreadful earthquake." Through the letters, Fowler follows Sarah PHILLIPS and three other correspondents as the events of that hectic spring and summer unfold, providing a unique insight for today's readers.

Fowler is a researcher and volunteer at the California Genealogical Society and she happened to be on hand when the letters were discovered, Her immediate perception was that there must be quite a story to be found in them. Soon she found herself immersed in what she calls "the little project that grew." Using

standard genealogical methods, the author was able to identify the parties involved and uncover a fascinating link to America's recent past.

Details and how to order the 176-page paperback book -- "A Most Dreadful Earthquake, A First-Hand Account of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire"-- (\$15) is available at the society's website: <http://www.calgensoc.org/>

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Utilizing Small Libraries

By the Rev. John Gray, president Franklin County (Ohio) Genealogical and Historical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ohfcghs/>

Since online research has become so viable and available we have lost a lot of foot traffic in our small library. Like every genealogical library everywhere we have unique holdings, including a lot of index cross-referencing that makes it easier to find a family or subject. These are not online anywhere.

Again, like most small, local libraries, we have genealogies on local families that were privately published because the compiler could not afford to have them published in large quantities, so they cannot be found outside the area of residency. These are not online anywhere.

We are going to lose these small libraries and their volunteers if we do not use them. In most cases the cost for nonmembers to use a local library is very small or there is no

cost at all. Thank you for using your local genealogical library.

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One Letter Changes Ancestor's Name

By Yvonne Cooper in Tannum Sands, Queensland, Australia

Twenty-five years ago, I was told our Francis RACE was in Barnsley, Yorkshire, England in 1871. He was born in 1857 in Retford, Nottinghamshire and in later life was known as Frank. I had searched over and over again and could not find him.

I searched the 1871 census at Ancestry.com and entered Frank, born about 1857, and living at Barnsley. I checked all the Franks that came up and there he was -- Frank EACE.

I then checked the entire England and Wales 1871 census for the surname EACE and found he was the only one. The census image shows the name as EACE, so I can only assume the enumerator made the error copying the sheet to the book.

I was also pleased to discover that Ancestry.com has a system where I could submit a correction to his name. Now when anyone searches for Frank EACE or RACE he will appear, at last.

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DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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