

# 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

## NOVEMBER MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2007



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

[www.rootsweb.com/~txdcgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txdcgs)

### Program: "Civil War Records"

### Speaker: Richard B. McCaslin, Ph.D.

Richard B. McCaslin, Ph.D., is a Professor of History at the University of North Texas. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in 1988.

Dr. McCaslin is the author of *Tainted Breeze: The Great Hanging at Gainesville, Texas, October 1862* (LSU,

1994), which won the Cora M. Tullis Prize of the Texas State Historical Association and a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History. He has also written *Lee in the Shadow of Washington* (LSU, 2001), which was nominated for a Pulitzer in Biography. His latest book is *The Last Stronghold: The Battles for Fort Fisher* (McWhitney Foundation, 2003).

Dr. McCaslin is currently listed in Contemporary Authors and Who's Who in America. The Denton County Genealogical Society welcomes him to our meeting and we look forward to his interesting program.



## NATIONAL ARCHIVES PARTNERS WITH FAMILYSEARCH

The National Archives has announced a five-year partnership agreement to digitize case files of approved pension applications of widows of Civil War Union soldiers from the National Archives.

The partnership will begin with a pilot project to digitize, index, and make available the first 3,150 of the pension files. Upon successful completion of the pilot, FamilySearch, in conjunction with Footnote.com, intends to digitize and index all

1,280,000 Civil War and later widows' files in the series.

FamilySearch will make the digitized materials available for free through [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) and in 4500 family history centers worldwide, or on a subscription-based web site operated by a third party, subject of National Archives approval. They will also be available at no charge in National Archives' research rooms in Washington, DC, and regional facilities across the country.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Program: Civil War Records Month	1
Georgia's Virtual Vault Treasurer's Report	2
Minutes Thanksgiving and Family Traditions	3
News from the Library Treasures from the Portal to Texas History	4
Ancestry Quick Tips	5

## GEORGIA'S VIRTUAL VAULT

Georgia's Virtual Vault, part of the Georgia Archives, contains the documents from the archives that have been digitized and placed online.

According to the information provided on the Georgia Archives website, documents in the Georgia Archives are scanned for many reasons. Most items are selected systematically as part of a long-term digitization plan: county maps or district plat maps, for instance, are selected and scanned as a group. In other cases the digitization is random and ad hoc: a patron orders a digital copy of a photograph, or documents are scanned before being placed on exhibit.

Whether created systematically or ad hoc, all of these images are stored on the Archives' servers and constitute a rich visual resource of Georgia history. The Virtual Vault was created to provide access to this wealth.

One of the treasures already available are the Georgia Death Certificates, 1919-1927. The collection also includes a number of certificates from 1914-1918, with the bulk dating from 1917 and 1918.

Georgia's Virtual Vault includes the following collections: Ad Hoc Collection, Chatham County Deed Books, Colonial Will Books, Colonial Wills,

Confederate Enlistment Oaths and Discharges, Confederate Pension Applications, County Records from Microfilm, District Plats of Survey, Death Certificates, Georgia Power Photograph Collection, Headright and Bounty Plats, Historic Postcard Collection and Leo Frank Clemency Application.

Georgia's Virtual Vault can be accessed at the following url:  
<http://content.sos.state.ga.us/index.php>



## TREASURER'S REPORT

<b>Balance September 30, 2007</b>	<b>\$ 2,131.82</b>	June 2003 - May 06	83.15
<b>Funds Deposited</b>		Birth Books Sold (57)	\$1,845.00
Dues	\$ 85.88	Printing Cost (200)	-2,049.13
Death Book	25.00	Postage	-118.69
Interest	<u>.36</u>	Sales Tax Paid	-104.78
Total Deposits	\$ 110.36	Advertising (1)	<u>-30.00</u>
		Profit	\$ -457.60
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>		Death Books Sold (141)	\$3,229.72
Speaker Fee	\$ <u>100.00</u>	Printing Cost (300)	-1,593.15
Total Disbursed	\$ 100.00	Consignment Fees	-400.00
		Postage	-156.99
<b>Balance October 31, 2007</b>	<b>\$2,142.18</b>	Sales Tax Paid	-77.19
<b>2007-2008 Paid Members—36</b>		Advertising	<u>-237.45</u>
Library Donations		Profit	\$ 764.94
April 1995 - May 02	\$1,994.22	Respectfully Submitted,	
June 2002 - May 03	799.15	Holly Hervey, Treasurer	

## MINUTES – OCTOBER 2007

The Denton County Genealogical Society met in the meeting room of the Emily Fowler Central Library on October 11, 2007. Refreshments were provided by Shirley Harris and Norma and Preston Curry for the 6:30 to 7:00 social time.

Linda welcomed our guest speaker and the 30 members and 3 visitors, who were present. Linda announced that we had 4 new members present and welcomed some of our long-standing members back.

Linda presided over the business meeting and reminded all to verify their information on the membership roster. The minutes from the September meeting were approved as published in the

newsletter. There was no treasurer's report. Linda announced that we have volunteers signed up for refreshments for the remainder of this year's meetings. She mentioned that additional volunteers for each month would be appreciated. Linda asked that any new members who haven't completed an application form do so.

Under new business, Kathy Strauss asked if those receiving the newsletter by regular mail are happy with that service. She asked that anyone who would like to change to email notification let her know, as this is faster and saves the society the cost of copying and mailing the newsletters.

Mel Brewer introduced our guest speaker, Lloyd Bockstruck, whose topic "Tennessee" proved to be very informative. We were allowed time for a question and answer period, which was quite interesting.

Mel announced that the November program will cover "Civil War Records" and will be presented by Dr. Richard B. McCaslin.

Linda adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm in order for us to clear the room before library closing time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vickie Davis, Secretary

## THANKSGIVING AND FAMILY TRADITIONS

The Thanksgiving holiday is the perfect time to share information with and about your family. Here are some suggestions for adding to your knowledge of your family history.

- While preparing the turkey and your favorite dishes, share recipes and the stories behind them with those helping out in the kitchen.
- As you linger over the pumpkin pie, ask each family member what they remember from Thanksgiving celebrations when they were young.
- If you are not a football fan, pull out old family pictures and have family members identify the people in them and make sure you write those names on the back of the
- While watching the Cowboys game, you can share your favorite stories about football wins and losses.
- Take lots of pictures of family members sleeping off the turkey day feast.
- Show off your family heirlooms and tell everyone about the why they are so important to your family.
- Scan important pictures and documents that family members have brought to share.
- Enjoy the day and write down what happened so you can share those memories next year.



# NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Denton Public Library have provided funding to the Special Collections Department to purchase a multi-media scanning system. The ST200 will digitize microfilm and microfiche, as well as photographs. These digitized images can then be downloaded to a flash drive to be uploaded to your computer. We will be able to digitize any of our microfilm holdings and make them available

to researchers by email. We are very excited and grateful to the Friends for their generosity. Look for the new equipment in the coming months.

The Special Collections will be offering interesting programs in the next few months.

25 January 2008—10:00 AM—Beginning Genealogy  
11:00 AM—Searching the Census

23 February 2008—10:00 AM—Quakertown program and exhibit to celebrate the opening of the African American Museum.

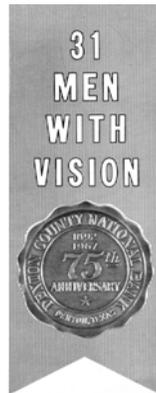
29 February 2008—6:00 PM—Genealogy After Hours



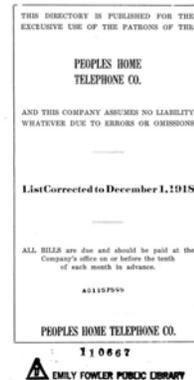
## NEW TREASURES FROM THE DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ON THE PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY



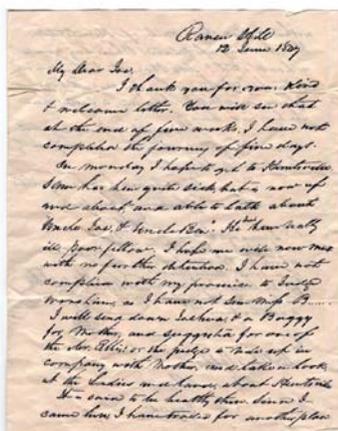
Certificate from the Postmaster General 1911



Denton National Bank History



People's Telephone Directory 1924



Letter from Sam Houston to Joseph Ellis 1847



Texas Association Stock Certificate 1844

## ANCESTRY QUICK TIPS

### Land Grant Applications

Don't overlook land grant applications as they can be goldmines of information. We have the original land grant and attached application for my great-great-grandparents for land in Arkansas in the early 1800s. My grandfather received 120 acres. The application provided information on where he was coming from, who was traveling with him, what household goods they brought, livestock, slaves, and more. Our ancestor brought "wife, 3 children, wagon, 2 mules, general household and personal goods, a milk cow, a goat, and 1 slave" from Tennessee.

This land is still owned by a member of our family, and these documents are a valued documentation of what they had when they started clearing and building on the land, and the hardships they faced.

Jerrie Sanders

### Cite Those Sources

Back in the dark ages, when I began researching my family, I paid no attention to the space at the bottom of the family group sheet labeled "Source." What was the purpose? After all, I knew who gave me the information. Little did I realize that my file would grow--and grow--and grow, and the day would come when I'd look at a name and wonder, "Where did I get your name? Is that really your DOB? How do I know? Did I read it somewhere? Did someone send it to me? Who? Why?"

When the importance of sources was made apparent to me, a couple of decades had gone by, and I had a lot of ground to go over again. Believe me, the time spent on re-doing something that would have been so easily done to begin with was resented. After all, I was getting on in years, and those years were gone, never to be relived.

Now I am considered an experienced researcher and am often

asked for advice. The first thing I tell folks just starting out is, "Document! Even if it's only 'Aunt Mary said...' -- enter where you obtained your information!"

Wish someone had told me this back in 1964.

Sincerely,

Shirley (Turner) Shiver

### AAA Tour Books

Get out your old AAA Tour Books and check out the towns and cities of your interest. Here's what happened to me:

When looking for a map in the Mid-Atlantic AAA Tour Book, I turned some pages then looked up a town in the Virginia county I've been researching. The town description mentioned a library in a certain building. I looked up the building on Google and brought up the name of the library that has a link for "genealogy". I plugged in the surname I was searching and found that the library has a family file for that name. I left a query, which was soon answered, and I was told about the contents of the file. I hope this may happen to you.

Madge (Hazlett) Johns

### Archaic Medical Terms

A good site for figuring out the meaning of confusing medical terms is [Rudy's List of Archaic Medical Terms](#).

There is lots of help here for deciphering causes of death.  
Hilda



### 2006-2008 OFFICERS

President—Linda Touraine

Vice-President—Mel Brewer

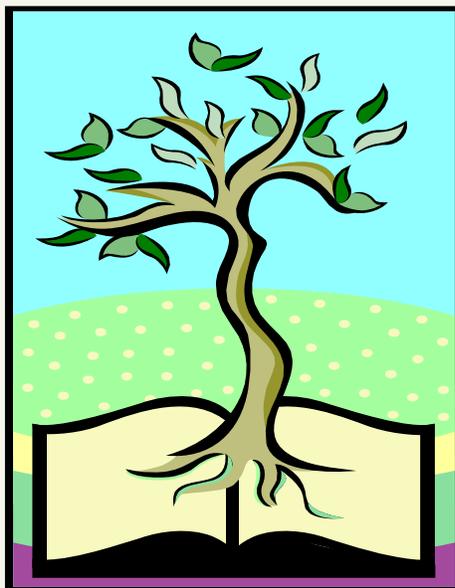
Secretary—Vickie Davis

Treasurer—Holly Hervey

Librarian—Kathy Strauss

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Parliamentarian—Diane Abner



**NEXT MEETING OF  
THE DENTON  
COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY WILL BE ON  
January 10, 2008**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

DENTON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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