

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

MARCH MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008



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

Program: “Geneological Resources in Federal Depository Libraries”

Speaker: Suzanne Sears

Documents created by government agencies are an untapped source of genealogical information. Locating these special documents and learning how to use them can sometimes be overwhelming. UNT’s Government Documents

librarian, Suzanne Sears, will help sort through the maze to gain a better understanding of these important resources.

Suzanne Sears is the Head of the Government Documents Department at the University of North Texas. She came to UNT in August of 2007 after working at the Tulsa City-County Library for 23 years. Under her direction, TCCL received the inaugural Federal Depository Library of the Year Award in 2003.

She has presented at numerous local, state, and national conferences on valuable government resources available at depository libraries and for free on the web.



NGS CONFERENCE IN THE STATES

The NGS Conference in the States, “Show Me The Nation’s Records,” will take place in Kansas City, Missouri, 14-17 May 2008. This conference provides genealogists with the opportunity to learn new skills and network with fellow researchers. Since the conference takes place in the middle of the continent, genealogists from Denton can easily make a road trip to attend.

There will be a reception on 14 May at the new Mid-Continent Public Library Genealogy Branch. This world-class library contains some of the best

genealogical resources in the county. Genealogists will have the opportunity to do research in the library before, during, and after the conference.

Hotel rooms for the conference always sell out quickly, so be sure to make your reservations soon. Pre-registration for the conference ends May 4. You can take advantage of reduced registration fees up to that date.

The Denton Public Library Special Collections Department has brochures for the conference at the Genealogy Desk.

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PENNSYLVANIA RESEARCH

by Lori Nalley

Does your research take you to Pennsylvania? The Pennsylvania State Archives website (<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us>) now has more content on their website. Check out their digital records. They now have indexes to warrants and patents online, along with copies of the survey books. Once you find your relative in the index, you can write to the archives and they will send you the warrant or patent for a small fee. Copies of the actual surveys are online.

Another good website is www.landex.com. It is a searching tool for deeds. Eighteen

Pennsylvania counties are online. Each county is different as to what they have online. It is a fee based search and the indexes only go back to the early 20th Century. However, you can possible chain a deed and find out the exact location of your ancestors property. Deed images online also vary.

Speaking of deeds, ever wonder what n84e 34 perches, s52w 545 perches and n2e 23.7 perches looks like? There are several websites that allow you to download a sample of their deed plotter program. I purchased Net Deed Plotter from Greenbrier

Graphics. It allows me to plot out deeds, merge them with other properties, and even put a background image under the plotted land. Just Google "deed plotter" and find the one you like. I downloaded several before I chose the one that met my needs.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance December 31, 2007 **\$2,028.96**

Funds Deposited

Dues	\$	55.00
Contribution		10.00
Interest		<u>.39</u>
Total Deposits	\$	65.39

Funds Disbursed

Speaker Fee	\$	55.00
Sales Tax		4.70
Dues (TSGS & FGS)		<u>60.00</u>
Total Disbursed	\$	119.70

Balance January 31, 2008 **\$2,028.96**

2007-2008 Paid Members—39

Library Donations	
April 1995 - May 02	\$1,994.22
June 2002 - May 03	799.15
June 2003 - May 06	83.15

Birth Books Sold (58)	\$1,880.00
Printing Cost (200)	-2,049.13
Postage	-118.69
Sales Tax Paid	-104.78
Advertising (1)	<u>-30.00</u>
Profit	\$ -422.60

Death Books Sold (141)	\$3,229.72
Printing Cost (300)	-1,593.15
Consignment Fees	-400.00
Postage	-156.99
Sales Tax Paid	-77.19
Advertising	<u>-237.45</u>
Profit	\$ 764.94

Respectfully Submitted,
Holly Hervey, Treasurer

MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2008

The Denton County Genealogical Society met in the meeting room of the Emily Fowler Central Library on February 14, 2008. Sisters, Peggy Hale and Beth Collins, provided special Valentine refreshments for the twenty six people present while members and visitors mingled during the 6:30 to 7:00 social time.

President Linda Touraine called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and presided over the business meeting. Visitors, Jack and Martha Boyd Watson were introduced and welcomed and surprised us all by becoming members before the evening was over. The minutes and treasurer's report from the January meeting were approved as printed and circulated. Librarian Kathy Strauss reminded us about the *Genealogy After Hours* special event to be held Friday, February 29, 2008 from 6:00pm to 11:00pm at the Emily Fowler Central Library. During the after hours event we will be treated to a special guest speaker, Aaron Holt from the National

Archives, Southwest Region. Holt will discuss the resources of the National Archives and how they can be used in genealogical research. Tony Matthews of Paper Tree will also be there to show us custom-made family trees suitable for display. The cost will be \$10 which includes the evening meal etc. Kathy informed us that the library has a new microfilm scanner that our society may use. Before closing the business meeting, Linda shared information about forming a five member committee to select officers for DCGS 2008-2009. Norma Gamble and Marilyn Simms volunteered to form 2 of the three *membership at large* members needed. Linda will ask for others to serve on the committee. Members were encouraged to submit names for offices. Holly Hervey agreed to serve as treasurer.

Linda, in the absence of Mel Brewer, introduced our special

guest speaker, professional genealogist and historian, Kelvin Meyers. His program "Using Newspapers in Research" demonstrated his great knowledge of history and genealogy. The program was informative and useful for practical methods of using newspapers in family searches.

The program ended at 8:10 and continued with questions and answers for another 20 minutes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm so that we could be out of the library by closing time.

Respectfully submitted
Marilyn Simms, substituting for
Secretary Vickie Davis



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15, 2008—Williams County Genealogical Society presents its Annual Seminar at the First United Methodist Church, 1004 North Mays, Round Rock, TX. Speaker: Lloyd Bockstruck. Contact Joan Lawrence at 512-869-1560, jil@gtwn.net.

March 29, 2008—"Farmers and Soldiers in the Western South." Lecture by Tony Burroughs. Dallas Genealogical Society. \$40.

April 5, 2008—"Historic Preservation in the Southwest: An Update from the National Trust for

Historic Preservation." Speaker: Daniel Carey, Director Southwest Office National Trust for Historic Preservation. Tandy Lecture Hall, Fort Worth Central Library. 10:30 am-12:00 noon.

May 3, 2008—"The Women of Grace and Gumption: Fort Worth Women Shaping the City." Tandy Lecture Hall, Fort Worth Central Library, 10:30 am-12:00 noon.

May 14-17, 2008 — NGS Conference in the States. "Show Me The Nation's Records. Kansas City, MO

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Denton Public Library Special Collections has a collection that is often overlooked by those who come in to do genealogy research. Periodicals hold a wealth of information, and often contain transcribed records about people who lived in particular places covered by the publication.

Current periodicals are displayed face-out at the end of the genealogy collection. The library subscribes to *Ancestry*, *Everton's Genealogical Helper*, *Avotaynu*, *American Spirit*, *NGS News*, *NGS Quarterly*, *FGS Forum*, and *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. Many other current periodicals are provided by our customers who donate them to us when they are finished reading them. We also have the newsletters and journals from local genealogical societies, including, *Denton County Genealogical Society News*, *Dallas Genealogical Society Newsletter*, and *Collin County Genealogical Society Newsletter*.

Back issues of many other periodicals are interfiled in the genealogy collection in the state they cover. It is important for the library to maintain these periodicals because of the historical significance of the information they

contain.

Looking at the table of contents of several of our current periodicals recently, I was pleased to see the variety of articles, regular features, and scholarly work by well-known professional genealogists. *Everton's Genealogical Helper* contained articles on "How to Achieve Genealogy Research Trip Success," by George Morgan, "National and Statewide Name Lists of the Civil War Era," by William Dollarhide, as well as book reviews, computer and CD-ROM reviews, and a feature on Net Family History. *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register's* articles were more scholarly, including "The Probable English Origins of Thomas Betterley," Jeremiah Rogers of Dorchester and Lancaster, Massachusetts," and "A Jordan-Silvester Connection Revealed."

Besides browsing through the table of contents of each journal, researchers can find articles indexed in PERSI, the Periodical Source Index. It is available online through Heritage Quest.

The next time you visit the library, take a look through the periodicals. You may be surprised what you will find. Remember, everything is not available online.

THE BLIZZARD OF MARCH 2008



The Beginning of the Blizzard



The Park Bridge during the
Blizzard



The Library Fountain

ANCESTRY QUICK TIPS

Google Highlighter

While scrolling down list after list of individuals with the very same name, I discovered a helpful tool. I subscribe to the Google Toolbar, and it has a highlighter as one of its tools. In the search box associated with the toolbar, I place pertinent info, such as, the birth year, death year, maybe the state initials, or any other info I deem helpful. I do not click in the search bar, but instead allow the highlighter to go to work. If it finds any info corresponding to what I have in the search box, it will highlight the info. I would imagine Yahoo has the same arrangement. It truly does help immensely.

Diane Magraw

Cleaning Up Shared GEDCOMS

We all know how important it is to have a source for our information and to share our findings with others in our family. When I started ten years ago, if I found someone with a lot of my ancestors, I would ask for their GEDCOM file and merge it into my file immediately, with no source info, many duplicates, misspelled places, and with their formats for sources, place names, etc.

I later learned the importance of having consistent sources. I had to clean up several source citations that only read, "I have original birth or death certificate." After spending several weeks putting sources with every fact in my file, I have a new way of approaching a new GEDCOM or FTM file.

When I get a new file, I save it with the family name (e.g., John Smith). Then I save it again named "John Smith-cleaned." In the cleaned file I delete duplicates, and add a source to every name, fact, and note in the file. I also make sure that all the place names are in the same format, city, county, state, country, and that the spelling is consistent (not Ft. Worth, Texas; Fort Worth, Texas; or Fort Worth TX).

After I have done all this, I then merge it with my file. Not only is it easier to do this in a smaller file, it also helps you to get familiar with the new names and places in their file. It also helps you decide on other research to do. I make a list of people more than 100 years old to check for death records. After I have merged the file, I also back up their original and cleaned file onto CD to clear up space on my hard drive.

Thanks,
Brooke Mahnken
Garden City, Kansas, USA

Back Up Digital Photographs

Here's some advice to those using digital cameras based on bitter experience. Please remember to make separate back-up copies of all your camera uploads. I use USB memory sticks that can be easily updated. A bonus is that you can take your photos with you when visiting other people and give an impromptu slide show.

Raynor Record

Write an Ancestral Resume

One way to keep interesting facts on an ancestor is to prepare a resume as if the person were alive and looking for a job. Look at some forms and find one or two that have slots for various types of information that a potential employer might be impressed to find. Even though your ancestor may be woman who did not have outside jobs, you can try to find out volunteering, church activities, travels, hobbies, and various good works.



2006-2008 OFFICERS

President—Linda Touraine

Vice-President—Mel Brewer

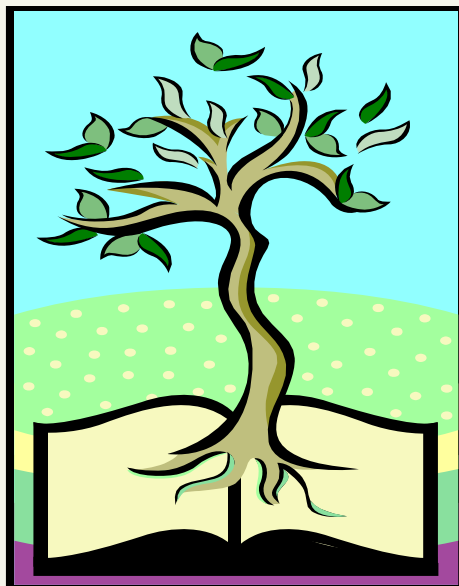
Secretary—Vickie Davis

Treasurer—Holly Hervey

Librarian—Kathy Strauss

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Parliamentarian—Diane Abner



**NEXT MEETING OF
THE DENTON
COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
APRIL 10, 2008
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 424707
Denton, TX 76204