

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

SEPTEMBER MEETING THURSDAY, SEPT 11, 2008



1896- Denton County Courthouse-

Program: "Presidents"
Speaker: Richard McCaslin, Ph.D.

University of North Texas, and, as the author of several books, is currently listed in *Contemporary Authors* and *Who's Who in America*. Dr. McCaslin will help us enter this

upcoming presidential elections period with a highly touted program about presidents as we remember the sad occasion of 9/11 in New York City.

Richard McCaslin, Ph.D, is a Professor of History at the

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

PROGRAMS FOR 2008-2009

October 9, 2008—"Courthouse Records" - Speaker: Tresa Tatyrek

February 12, 2009—"The Hand That Rocked the Cradle Can Rule the World" - Speaker—Kelvin Meyers

November 13, 2008—"A Pig in a Poke—Misleading, Misunderstood & Misused Resources" - Speaker: John Wylie

March 12, 2009—"Genealogy for the Beginner and the Seasoned Researcher" - Panel Discussion

January 8, 2009—"Genealogy Computer Software Programs on the Market"

April 9, 2009—Denton County Genealogical Society 30th Anniversary Program. Speaker: Bob Montgomery.

May 14, 2009—"Serendipity"

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"GENEALOGY AFTER HOURS"

SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

6:00 PM—11:00 PM

EMILY FOWLER CENTRAL LIBRARY

Registration: \$10.00

Genealogy Desk

940-349-8752

PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF LINEAGE SOCIETY APPLICATIONS

BY Diana White

Many of us want to celebrate our heritage by establishing membership in lineage societies, such as Daughters (or Sons) of the American Revolution; Daughters (or Sons) of the Republic of Texas; the Jamestown Society; the Mayflower Society, the *Society* of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge; San Jacinto Descendants; and many more. In order to complete a lineage application, one must submit documents to prove descent from an ancestor who met the criteria of the organization. The type of documents and how they are prepared are very important to the approval of the application. Some hints for completing applications will be presented here.

Almost all of the lineage societies require documentary proof for birth, marriage, and death for the people of each generation. Many societies require birth, marriage, and death certificates from the time vital records become available in a state. The further back the lineage, the types of documents change from our modern documents to those that may not have exact dates of birth and death, but should be able to establish the relationship between the generations. Marriage records may be the most consistently available of vital records in the earlier times. Intent to marry may be published in a paper or in church minutes.

Birth, death, and baptismal records from church records may be used, also.

Census records are important records for tracing lineage, but the records from 1790 to 1840 contain names of heads of household only. Beginning in 1850, U.S. census records are gold mines in that they list the names of all residents of a household. However, a caveat should be heeded. Just because a family may “look” to be a nuclear family does not mean that it is. The 1880 census shows the relationships of persons in the household. Your 2nd great-grandparents married in a burned county. The 1900 census indicates the number of years married – but not a year or day. Be sure to consider these records as proof of your lineage.

Probate records come to mind as an important type to use. Wills fall into this category, but so do intestate administrations, which may provide more valuable information than a will. An administration should name all the heirs, and if a child had died leaving issue, the children of the deceased child should be named.

Probably the most under-utilized of records are the land records. Many people did not have to probate an estate

because the value of the estate did not require one. Sometimes the only thing of value a person had was a small piece of land that was sold and the money distributed to the heirs. The deed record should reflect the names of all the heirs and possibly their residences. In Texas, powers of attorney may be filed in the deed records books, especially if the power of attorney involves a land division. It is not unusual for land division to be asked for in district civil courts. Hand-in-hand with land records are tax records, which may be used as proof of residency, as well as age, when a person first appears on a tax record or is dropped from it. Tax records may prove a link to generations by studying land possession.

In Texas, district courts in the counties handle divorces. Divorce records should provide a date of marriage and the names of all children of the marriage. The ages of the children may be given if they are minors.

More frequently used are obituaries, funeral notices, tombstones, news articles celebrating a person's birthday or a couples' anniversary.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Balance April 30, 2008 | \$2,107.94 | Library Donations | |
| Funds Deposited | | April 1995 - May 06 | \$2,876.52 |
| Dues | \$ 235.00 | June 2006 – June 08 | 500.00 |
| Donation | 50.00 | Birth Books Sold (58) | \$1,880.00 |
| Interest | <u>1.12</u> | Printing Cost (200) | -2,049.13 |
| Total Deposits | \$ 286.12 | Postage | -118.69 |
| Funds Disbursed | | Sales Tax Paid | -104.78 |
| Library Donation | \$ 500.00 | Advertising (1) | <u>-30.00</u> |
| Box Rent | <u>72.00</u> | Profit | \$ -422.60 |
| Total Disbursed | \$ 572.00 | Death Books Sold (141) | \$3,229.72 |
| Balance July 31, 2008 | \$1,822.06 | Printing Cost (300) | -1,593.15 |
| 2008-2009 Paid Members—27 | | Consignment Fees | -400.00 |
| | | Postage | -156.99 |
| | | Sales Tax Paid | -77.19 |
| | | Advertising | <u>-237.45</u> |
| | | Profit | \$ 764.94 |

MINUTES—MAY 2008 MEETING

The Denton County Genealogical Society met in the meeting room of the Emily Fowler Central Library on May 8, 2008. Refreshments were provided by Barbara and Ralph Pyke for the 6:30 to 7:00 social time.

President Linda Touraine called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone present. We had one visitor, Adrian Ott, a UNT practicum student at the library. There were 22 present. Linda presided over the business meeting, during which the minutes from the April meeting were approved with several minor corrections to the published version. The treasurer’s report was approved as published. Linda asked if members who are receiving mailed newsletters would like to change to the electronic version, and several members agreed to make the change.

Under old business, Linda asked that members sign up for refreshments for the 2008 – 2009 meetings. She requested that we check the membership list for address, phone and email corrections. The committee that is researching the publication of the birth book did not meet prior to the May meeting. It was suggested that we give the money that would have been spent on the book’s publication to the library. Holly Hervey made a motion to give at least \$500 to the library, and Diana

White seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed. Members present were encouraged to suggest book titles for Kathy Strauss to purchase. Several ideas for providing records online were discussed. Linda decided that it would be best for the committee to discuss these ideas over the summer and report back to the society at the September meeting.

Marilyn Simms, chair of the nominating committee, reported that the office of Vice-President had not yet been filled. Other officers nominated for the next two years are Linda Touraine - President, Shirley Harris - Secretary, Holly Hervey - Treasurer, Kathy Strauss – Librarian and Newsletter Editor, Diane Abner – Parliamentarian, and Chris Strauss – Webmaster. Several options for filling the vacancy of Vice-President were discussed, and at Mel Brewer’s suggestion, it was decided that the society would fill this office with a committee. Marilyn agreed to be the committee chairperson, and the committee members will be Diana White, Thomas Richard, Josephine Leach, and Lori Nalley. Norma Gamble made the motion to approve the slate of officers, and the motion carried. The Executive Board, which is comprised of the officers, will meet in June.

The members present also discussed ideas for increasing our membership and making the society more visible and well-known in the community. Increasing our membership will provide a larger pool of members, who are willing to serve as officers, and will bring new ideas for programs.

Our program was provided by Kathy Straus, who is the head librarian of the Emily Fowler genealogy department. She presented a case study using only resources that can be found in our local library. The amount of information she discovered was quite impressive. Kathy also explained how inter-library loans work and that they can be used to obtain PERSI documents. She asked that the members let it be known if they want more of these how-to type programs. Holly mentioned that we have had round-robin meetings, where this type of information is shared. Holly also reminded everyone that dues need to be paid.

Linda adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Davis, Secretary

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There is a variety of records that applicants need to check to prove lineage for hereditary societies. These are suggestions. Now go to work!

You now have documents, but what to do with them? First, make sure the copies are readable, because the organizations copy or microfilm them for preservation. Work with copies not original copies, because the societies do not return documents. If it is difficult to make a good copy of the document, try scanning it. Sometimes it is possible to make a better copy from a scan than from using a Xerox-type machine.

Check to see what size paper the organization requires. Some want legal size while some want letter size. Organize

the documents by generation and place divider sheets between the generations. Using a red PENCIL and straight-edge, underline the important information on a document. Underline locations, dates, names, etc to direct the attention of the person who verifies the application. The genealogists who work on verification spend a specific amount of time per application. If it can’t be verified in that period of time, it may be returned for further information. That of course you don’t want!

As a prospective member, you submit the application to the chapter registrar. According to the specifications of the organization, submit either one or two copies of the application and one set of

documents. The local registrar should go over the document and approve it. It is possible that the registrar may require more information and will work with you to locate it. Then, the registrar submits it to the appropriate person. In some organizations, the registrar general may work on the verification of the application, but in larger ones, such as DAR, there is a team of genealogists at national headquarters who work on applications. Approval time varies, but three or more months is not unusual. Now, the worst part is waiting for the announcement that your application has been approved!

GENEALOGY WITHOUT COMPUTERS

by Mary Tate

Diana White asked me to write an article about a challenging research topic that I have pursued. I want to explain that this research was done about 20 years ago—before the internet and on-line resources! So, two possible lessons may come from this reading: a glimpse at reasoning processes that led from one find to another that may be applied to other problems and a thankfulness that records are becoming more available via computers.

There is a family cemetery plot in Truby, Jones County, Texas. In the center, inside the fence is a single pedestal stone for Nancy Thompson b. 24 Oct 1816/d. 9 Feb 1900. There appear to be four other graves, two on each side of her, unmarked. Daddy told me they were his family, and he eventually said that his grandmother Sarah Bridges Thompson was buried there. It might be assumed her husband Jack Thompson was buried there, too. Therefore, Nancy could be Jack's mother. The other two graves are still unknown.

When I began this research, the 1850 census was the only indexed census available, and the 1900 census was not yet released. So, I spent hours at the library looking at all THOMPSON entries in Texas in 1850, searching for a wife Nancy, age about 34. As I finished all those individual lookups, I began to panic: if they weren't in Texas by 1850, where do I begin to look next? Studying the photocopy of the census index pages, I noticed two entries just a few lines below the last Thompson—Joseph THOPKINS and Gardner THOPSON, both in Burleson County, Texas. **[Lesson #1: Be aware of spelling variations and/or misspellings].**

Gardner THOPSON (age 38, birthplace "Unkn") and wife Nancy (age 34, born KY) had children Mary (age 14, b. IL), Mariah (age 12, b. IL), Francis (male age 10, b AR) Celia Ann (age 8, b AR), and George (age 5, b. MO). Joseph THOPKINS was next door to Gardner THOPSON, and Joseph's wife was Celia, age 48 b. TN. Celia and Nancy were sisters, a theory supported by further research.

Next, will the 1860 census for Burleson County show Jack as a member of this household? Gardner Thompson was not head of the household. N.

Thompson (female, age 42, b KY) had Celia (age 17, b AR), George (age 14, b MO), Andrew (age 9, b TX), and Sarah (age 4, b TX). This family seems to be the same as the one Gardner headed 10 years earlier—children Celia and George are good matches, and the older three would likely be on their own. Andrew, then, is "Jack"? This family migrated through Tennessee into Kentucky (see Celia's birthplace in TN in 1802 and Nancy's birthplace in KY in 1816). Andrew Jackson was President from Tennessee 1829-1837 and highly active in the development of Tennessee for years before his election. I found out from later research that Francis/Frank/F.M. was Francis Marion Thompson, possibly named for the Revolutionary War hero nicknamed the "Swamp Fox" from South Carolina (1732-1795). George disappeared and very little more has been found on him except a possible marriage in Burleson County, but I would speculate that his name was George Washington Thompson. So, Andrew Jackson Thompson (Andrew in 1850, A.J. or Jack in other records) fits nicely into the family naming pattern.

[Lesson #2: notice naming patterns. A.J. Thompson also shows up in Frank's family; George Washington in Nancy's brother's family; Celia/Celiann and Mary and Mariah also repeat...]

For now, I've found the right ancestors, and I want to go backwards. In the 1850 census of Burleson County, TX, these families show a similar migration to Gardner Thompson's (birthplaces of children IL, AR, MO, TX): Sampson Cole and Alfred Tompkins. Nancy Cole, Celia Ann Cole, Sampson Cole and William Cole are siblings. Alfred Tompkins, Joseph Tompkins and Levina Tompkins COLE, wife of Sampson, are siblings. Including families that remained in Illinois or Arkansas, four Coles married four Tompkins. In 1840 census and the tax rolls of Arkansas for 1839, Gardner Thompson and his in-laws Sampson Cole, Benjamin Cole, William Cole and others are in neighboring counties in Arkansas. George Washington Cole, son of Sampson Cole, explained in his biographical sketch in Los Angeles, CA that they spent some time in Arkansas, moved to near Joplin, Missouri, and crossed into Indian Territory to dig salt wells before moving into Texas. This explained the pattern of birthplaces for the Thompson children and Sampson Cole's children.

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[Lesson #3: look at all known family members! Your own line may not have published clues for you, but relatives may have!]

[Lesson #4: Serendipity, an unexpected find, is our best ally! Be aware of needed records in unexpected places]. I had already done a great deal of research on the Cole/Tompkins lines in Bureau and Putnam Counties, Illinois and tabled the problem for lack of results on my direct line. My daughter and I stopped in Fulton County, Illinois looking for my Collins gr-grandfather—purely a wild goose chase. Instead, my daughter found the marriage record of Nancy Cole and Gardner Thompson. This was 60-80 miles down the Illinois River and several counties away from the area inhabited by the Coles and Tompkins. The marriage record included notes from Nancy's mother and elder brother William, allowing her to be married and Nathan Thompson, allowing his son Gardner to be married. Gardner Thompson married Nancy Cole on 3 Feb 1833.

Here's another THOMPSON generation. Marriage records in Fulton County show only one other Thompson marriage this early: Abigail Thompson married William HARDIN on 15 Dec 1831. I'll return to this couple later. Other Thompson marriages from 1841 forward can be linked to later arrivals and not part of Nathan's family group. **[Lesson #5: look at all families of your surname for possible family links. Either prove their relationship or eliminate them as kin.]**

Nathan Thompson and his wife Freelove bought land in Fulton Co., Illinois on 3 February 1823. The 1830 Census for Fulton County, IL shows Nathan Thompson's household with seven members: 1 male under 5, 1 male 15-20 (Gardner?), 1 male 20-30, 1 male 56-60 (Nathan); 1 female 15-20 (Abigail?), 1 female 20-30, 1 female 50-60 (Freelove) I have tentatively identified these family members as Nathan Thompson and his wife Freelove, Nathan's younger children Abigail and Gardner and an older child with spouse and young son. I am not ready to say that Freelove is Gardner's mother. There was a state census in 1825, and his household showed 2 males under 21 (Gardner and ?), 1 male over 21 (Nathan), three females (Freelove, two daughters Abigail and ?). Or, this household may be the same configuration as the 1830 with the unknown male and female being a newly married couple whose child will be the male under 5 in 1830. But, the marriage did not occur in Fulton County, or they were Freelove's child by another surname. The deeds filed in Fulton County are signed and sealed in

Delaware County, Ohio. Lyman Hendrick sold to Nathan and Freelove Thompson his military bounty in Illinois in Township 4 N and Range 3 E where Nathan Thompson is found in the 1825 state census and where his land is recorded.

Delaware County, Ohio is a burned county. No marriage records exist for the time period that Nathan Thompson lived there. The 1820 Census shows nine household members: 1 male under 10 (Gardner, born 1812), 1 male 10-16, 1 male 19-26, 1 male over 45 (Nathan); 1 female under 10 (Abigail, born 1810), 1 female 10-16; 2 females 16-26, 1 female 26-45 (Freelove). He bought his land in Delaware County in 1817 and sold it 1823. He paid taxes on that land from 1816-1824. The backward trail stops here. Where this family was prior to 1816 is a mystery. I have a couple of clues but nothing certain.

Abigail Thompson who married William HARDIN in Fulton County, Illinois in 1831, seems to have been born in Vermont. The Hardin family moved south into Schuyler County, Illinois; and some of the Hardin descendants came to Grayson County, Texas at a later date. There was never any clear connection between the Hardins and the Thompsons in Texas. On the strength of Abigail's early marriage in Fulton County, she's a good candidate for Nathan's daughter and Gardner's sister. Therefore, a migration from New England is suggested. Also, the name "Freelove" sounds very Puritan and therefore possibly New England. Lyman Hendrick who sold the land in Illinois to Nathan and Freelove Thompson came from Vermont. Did they know each other before the transaction? In addition, the note written to allow Gardner and Nancy a marriage license says "Mr, Stephen Dewey plees to let Gardner Thompson to hav lisen on my a count and this mi or der shal be your re ceit for same and oblige your friend Nathan Thompson". Stephen Dewey came from upstate New York very near Vermont. That area may have been considered part of Vermont at one time. However, the notes written by Nancy's mother and brother William sounded very similar to Nathan's. Did they copy his wording, or was that the norm for that time period? Perhaps the friendly message does not suggest anything about being old friends from back East.

Nathan Thompson's land in Fulton County was sold by Thomas Wilson in 1829. There is no interim deed to show sale to Thomas Wilson; there is no probate for Nathan Thompson in Fulton or Schuyler County. We know he was alive to sign the permission for Gardner in 1833, and there were court records about disputes over a horse in

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1836 involving Nathan Thompson. Or, perhaps this was the older son named for his father? Nathan Thompson is not head of a household in 1840 in Illinois, but there was a marriage record to a much younger widow, and that family on the 1850 census of Schuyler County shows a Nathan Thompson to be about 70 years of age and born in New York. This may be another Nathan Thompson!

In Delaware County, Ohio, there was a Richard Thompson who came from Ireland by way of Virginia. He was a musician in Sumner's Militia. He married Rebecca Lee. His land was rather close to the land Nathan Thompson bought. Cemetery records show his dates 1731-1826. Nathan is never mentioned among his children. If this is the link, he followed a migration shared by other members of the COLE family out of Washington County, VA. Other early Thompsons in Delaware County included William Thompson from Blandford, MA, Samuel Thompson from Allegheny County, PA, Jonathan and sons Alfred and Ebenezer Thompson from New Haven, CN. None of them seem to connect with Nathan Thompson.

All this research was conducted in the 1980's and 1990's. The research was done on site at Emily Fowler Public Library, North Texas (census on microfilm), Dallas and Fort Worth Public Libraries, with correspondence and exchange research with distant researchers. THOMPSON is one family line for which I have not done much travel

research—with the exception of finding the marriage record in Fulton County, Illinois, and some deed work there in Fulton and Schuyler Counties. Nothing has been found on the internet that I didn't already have from another source. One further note: the cemetery in Lee County, Texas where Gardner Thompson was buried holds two other unidentified Thompsons. Just a few feet from Gardner's homemade concrete tombstone (Feb 1812-Mar 1859) are two tall identical stones. One is unreadable and may have a footstone with "M.P.T"; the other is "N. E. THOMSON 1853-1875" and is very worn, also. Is this a nephew named Nathan? Neither of these sets of initials match any known member of Gardner Thompson's family. Curiously, Nancy Thompson was missing on the 1870 census of Burleson County. Tax records show she did not pay taxes for a period of three years from about 1868-1871. But, she's back in time for her daughter Sarah to marry Adolphus Holiday in Burleson County in 1872 and her son Jack to marry Sarah Ann Bridges in Lee County (created out of Burleson) in 1874.

2008-2010 OFFICERS

President—Linda Touraine

Vice-President—Marilyn Simms

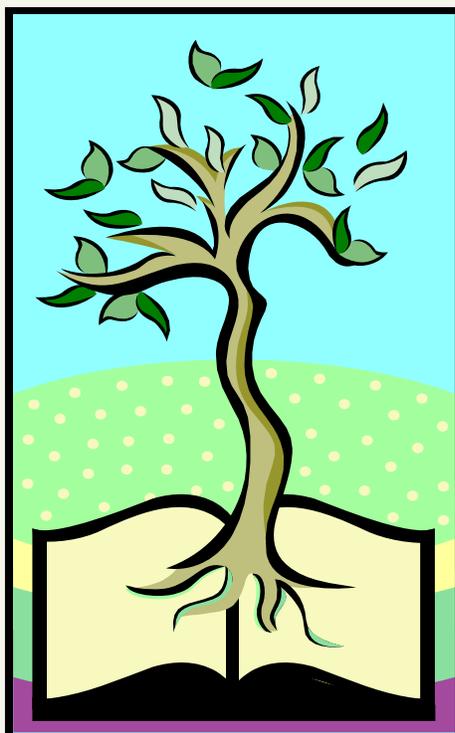
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**NEXT MEETING OF
THE DENTON
COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
OCT 9, 2008
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**



Genealogy After Hours

Genealogists, here's your chance to do hours of uninterrupted research in the library.

Representatives from national lineage societies will be on hand for input on and assistance with applications to their organizations. The program includes one-on-one research help and a light dinner. Co-sponsored by the Denton Public Library & the Denton County Genealogical Society.

Friday, September 26, 2008

6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Emily Fowler Central Library 502 Oakland Street www.dentonlibrary.com



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DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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