

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

FEBRUARY MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2009



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: “The Hand That Rocked the Cradle Can Rule the World”

Speaker: Kelvin Meyers

A professional genealogist for the last eighteen years, and an avid researcher-historian for the last twenty-eight years, Kelvin brings a great knowledge of social sciences, history, genealogy and some PI techniques to his work. The Dallas Public Library

employed him for ten years in the Genealogy Section. Now, he contracts with various companies as a forensic genealogist, searching for missing or unknown heirs to estates and to oil and gas leases. In January of 2007, he was appointed Chairman of the Archives and History Committee of the First United Methodist Church,

Dallas, Texas.

A native of Crosby County, he has published three books on his home county; deed abstracts and a compilation of early records and abstracts of probate minutes.



NARA and Footnote.com Launch Online African American History Collection

In celebration of Black History Month, Footnote.com is launching its African American Collection. Footnote.com has been working with the NARA to digitize records that provide a view into the lives of African Americans that few have seen before.

These records cover subjects including slavery, military service, and issues facing African Americans dating back to the late 18th century. Over a million pages of original documents, letters,

and photos are in this collection, most digitized for the first time. Making these records available online will help people to better understand the history and sacrifice that took place in this country.

Footnote.com is available at all three branches of the Denton Public Library.



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MINUTES—JANUARY 2009

President Linda Touraine opened the first meeting for 2009, welcoming our members and visitors. Twenty three people were present including our visitors, Ken Dickinson, Roberta Dockery, Matthew Strauss, and Miriam Rice.

Holly Hervey made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded and approved. The treasurer's report was approved.

In new business, a motion was made by Diana White to purchase a book in memory of George Burlage. Motion seconded by Holly Hervey.

Kathy Strauss will chose a book for the library.

Holly discussed the funeral home project. She still needs help transferring information from cards to the computer.

Marilyn Simms, Vice President and program chairman gave a presentation on Family Tree Maker. Webmaster Chris Strauss presented Legacy. We received excellent information on both programs.

Refreshments were provided by

Sandra Marsh, Shirley Sawyer, Cindy Gage, and Rita Compton.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted;
Shirley Harris



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Nov. 30, 2008	\$2,095.94	Library Donations	
Funds Deposited		April 1995 - May 06	\$2,876.52
Birth Book Sale	\$ 35.00	June 2006 – June 08	500.00
Interest	<u>.44</u>	Birth Books Sold (60)	\$1,950.00
Total Deposits	\$ 35.44	Printing Cost (200)	-2,049.13
Funds Disbursed		Postage	-118.69
TSGS Dues	\$ 25.00	Sales Tax Paid	-104.78
FGS Dues	<u>35.00</u>	Advertising (1)	<u>-30.00</u>
Total Disbursed	\$ 60.00	Profit	\$ -352.60
Balance Jan 31, 2009	\$2,071.38	Death Books Sold (142)	\$3,279.72
2008-2009 Paid Members—49		Printing Cost (300)	-1,593.15
		Consignment Fees	-400.00
		Postage	-156.99
		Sales Tax Paid	-77.19
		Advertising	<u>-237.45</u>
		Profit	\$ 814.94



Respectfully Submitted,
Holly Hervey, Treasurer



Genealogy After Hours

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

Come see our new online resources. Librarians Kathy Strauss and Laura Douglas will give overviews of Footnote.com & NewspaperArchives.com, as well as provide general tips for successful online genealogical research. In addition, all the library's genealogical material will be available for participants who wish to do research during the event. 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, February 27, 2009

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

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



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www.cityofdenton.com
ADA/BOE/ADEA
TDD: (800) 735-2989



**Register at the Emily Fowler Central Library Genealogy Department or by mail.
\$10.00 registration fee includes dinner. For more information please call 940.349.8749.**

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Mail Check (payable to the Denton County Genealogical Society) to: Denton Public Library Genealogy Dept.
502 Oakland St. Denton, TX 76201

Pennsylvania's New Right to Know Law Goes into Effect

The state of Pennsylvania has a new "Right-to-Know" law, effective January 1, 2009, including an Office of Open Records headed by Executive Director Terry Mutchler. Mutchler has the following to say about the new law and his office:

"Governor Edward G. Rendell signed the new Right-To-Know law on February 14, 2008 fundamentally changing the way people access public records of their government. The hallmark of this new law, which fully takes effect January 1, 2009, is its presumption of openness. For the first time in Pennsylvania history, citizens no longer have to prove that a record is public and that it should be released. Now, a government agency must presume that a record is a public record available for inspection or copying. If the government agency chooses to withhold a record, the agency has the burden to prove – with legal citation – why that record should not be available to the public...The law, sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi, also established an Office of Open Records. The mission of the Office of Open Records is to enforce the new Right-to-Know law and to serve as a resource to citizens, public officials and members of the media."

For the remainder of Executive Director Mutchler's message, as well as links to PDF and text versions of the new law, go to openrecords.state.pa.us. In response to a specific question about how the new law might apply to certain kinds of vital records, the following communication was received from a Senior Attorney with the Office of Open Records: "Vital statistics records are subject to the Right to Know law unless there are statutory provisions enacted to the contrary. Pennsylvania statute provides that the Advisory Health Board shall proscribe fees for copies of vital statistics (35 P.S. 450.807) so the fee structure established by the Office of Open Records would not apply. Similarly, there are statutes protecting adoption records and birth records from disclosure and the Right to Know Act would not trump those. The Right to Know Act has an exception for any record that identifies the name, home address or date of birth of a child 17 years or younger. I would expect marriage, divorce and death certificates to be available to the public unless there are statutory limitations."

From the FGS Voice, Vol. 16, No. 1

"MINING GENEALOGY GOLD IN THE MILE HIGH CITY"

By Kathy Strauss

On January 22, I arrived in Denver to attend the American Library Association Midwinter Conference. It was a balmy 70 degrees. By the next day, the temperatures had plunged to the teens, with a sub-zero wind chill. I bundled up and headed for the Denver Public Library for the day-long Genealogy Pre-Conference.

At the beginning of the event, we were treated to a tour of the Colorado Historical Society library across the street from the public library. The library director introduced us to their outstanding collection of city directories from Colorado towns. It is also the headquarters for the Colorado Newspaper Project. The library holds an extensive photograph

collection, as well as business and family papers from throughout Colorado.

The Pre-Conference featured five speakers, with topics on "Colorado Resources," "Soldiers and Sailors of the 18th, 19th, & 20th Centuries in Federal Government Documents and Publications," "Native People in the West," "Railroads," and "Hispanic Southwest-Colorado and New Mexico."

Following the day of genealogy classes, we were offered a tour of the Denver Public Library Genealogy Collection. The well-trained staff greets each patron, sits down with them, and determines what their research plan is. I was really

impressed with this strategy to get each researcher to verbalize what they wanted to accomplish.

The Genealogy Collection is the largest collection in the Rocky Mountain area. It contains about 65,000 volumes, 100,000 pieces of microforms, as well as magazines, charts, clippings, and manuscripts. It is primarily a U.S. research collection, and includes an obituary index, 1936 to the present for the Denver Post and the Rocky Mountain News.

This day of learning and research tours added to my knowledge of genealogy and resources available in the West.

ANCESTRY QUICK TIPS

Saving Family Correspondence

When we moved my parents from Colorado to Nebraska some years ago, my brother started to throw out all the "junk"--greeting cards, old letters, post cards and notes. I said I wanted all of them. He could not believe I would pack all that "junk" back to California. He should have said all that "gold" back to California.

My mother was born in 1895 and died at the age of 96. One letter was from her girlfriend when they were young. They wrote a tiny note under the stamp on their letters like, "I miss you" or "I like BK," etc., licking only around the very edges of the stamp. They thought they were really being clever -- I think so too.

I have names of relatives from some of her cards and letters that I never knew existed. There are so many birth, death, marriages, anniversaries, accidents and illnesses along with other things in the lives of these families. Most of the birth announcements and marriage invitations are in their original envelopes.

There are a few letters where one relative that can't stand another one and my mother being in between receiving letters from both and being sweet to both in answering them. Another find was over ten years of Christmas photo cards from a family to her. I put them in a row and I could see how their family grew.

I will still go through all the "junk" again later as I know there is probably something I have missed.

June Timm

Murrieta, California

"Pieces of Your Past" Project

My research has led me to find a great-grandfather who was murdered; one who drowned in a wash basin; a grandfather who never used his birth name; a Revolutionary War soldier; a great-grandfather who fought in the Civil War, and many other interesting items. There was so much info that my nieces and nephews really couldn't figure out who I was talking about at times. So, I came up with a simple project that I called "Pieces of Your Past."

In Sept. 2007, I attended a welcome home party for my nephew who had just returned from a tour of duty in Iraq. I was talking to him about his great-great grandfather's murder by a man who fell in love with his wife. I realized when talking to my nephew it is difficult for others to follow the big picture. Because of this, I decided to simplify things for them. For Christmas 2007, I prepared small booklets of each family member's direct ancestors.

I selected the most distant relative in each line and used Family Tree Maker to print Relationship Charts from the most distant relative to the person I was preparing the booklet for. This gave a clear list, with

photos, and identified the relationships. Then, I chose interesting tidbits about each of the direct ancestors from my Family Tree Maker notes and created a Word document with this brief information. I put the printed pages in protective sheets, put them in a small binder, added a personal note at the beginning, and made a cover. This is the project I call "Pieces of Your Past."

The cover had jigsaw puzzle pieces from clip art on which I had added the surname of the branches of the family covered in the booklet. The recipient of the booklet had his/her name in larger type on one of the puzzle pieces. The result was a tailor-made book for each relative. It was a hit. I was told that many sat around and read their booklets on Christmas morning.

This year, I have made the pages for a branch of the family that I was unable to include last year because I lacked information. This way, each person can share in my recent discoveries of this part of the family and add a little bit more to the pieces of their past.

Carol Clemens

Summer Homes

In response to [Juliana's city directory article](#), indeed your missing people may have had summer homes. After years of trying to find a death certificate for an 1894 death, I was amazed this summer to find her obituary that said she, a New York City resident, died at her summer home in Bath Beach, Rhode Island! And the obituary was in a Chicago newspaper--go figure. Her husband did business in Chicago among other places.

And a big thank you goes to Ancestry, though it was not on their website. This past summer I attended the IAJGS conference in Chicago and Ancestry provided the computers and had the obituary website on them.

Barbara Kaufman

Mt. Vernon, New York

More About the Mc

As several recent tips have mentioned, it pays to be really creative when looking for Irish names. Think of variations. I've found the same person using macneal/mcneal/neal/m'neal/mneal. Sometimes that apostrophe really needs to be there and sometimes it doesn't. It depends on the search engine. MacKneal just might be found under M'Kneal/M'Neal or Mkneal/Mneal. Don't forget to do a Soundex search with and without the apostrophe.

Kathy Farrell Payson, Arizona

2008-2009 OFFICERS

President—Linda Touraine

Vice-President—Marilyn Simms

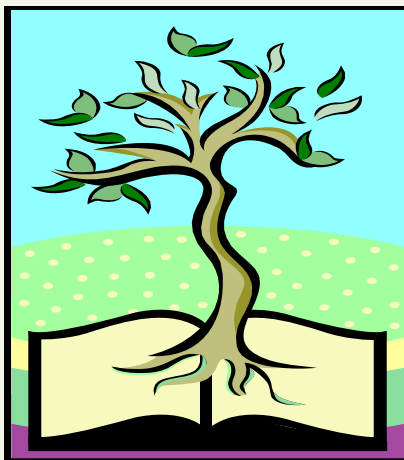
Secretary—Shirley Harris

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Librarian—Kathy Strauss

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Parliamentarian—Diane Abner



**NEXT MEETING OF
THE DENTON
COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
MARCH 12, 2009
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 424707
Denton, TX 76204