

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, 12, 2009

Program: Panel Discussion

This month's meeting will be a panel discussion featuring some of our more knowledgeable DCGS members. Please feel free to bring any questions you need help in answering, or for which you need help in finding solutions.

At the March meeting, we would also like to get a count of the people who are planning

to attend our 30th anniversary celebration dinner meeting in April. We are having a very popular, local speaker for the great interest and genuine pleasure of all people interested in genealogy and local history.

DCGS will provide a "Martha Len" dessert, the barbecue, drinks and the paper goods for the festive evening. We are asking the membership to join in our potluck with a side dish of

their choosing. Getting the number of those attending ahead of time will help us with the planning. If anyone wants to help with the April dinner, please contact Marilyn Simms at mwsimms@aol.com. She would love to hear from you.



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

DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY DEDICATES HISTORICAL MARKER

On Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 10:00 AM, the Denton Public Library will dedicate a Texas Historical Marker honoring noted Texas architect, O'Neil Ford. The marker will be placed in front of the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street. O'Neil Ford designed the additions to the Emily Fowler Central Library in 1968 and 1981. He also designed the historic Little Chapel in the Woods at TWU, the Denton Civic Center, and the Denton City Hall.

Linda Ford, O'Neil Ford's daughter will be the speaker at the dedication. All are invited to attend this special event celebrating a much-loved architect who began his career in Denton. A reception in the library lobby will follow the ceremony.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Program: Panel Discussion	
Denton Public Library Dedicates Historical Marker	1
Minutes	
Treasurer's Report	2
News from the Library	
Cologne City Archives Collapses	3
Back to Basics	
by Kathy Strauss	4
Ancestry Quick Tips	5

MINUTES—FEBRUARY 2009

The Denton County Genealogical Society met in the Emily Fowler Library meeting room for our February meeting. Refreshments were provided by Richard Thomas and Diana White.

The program began at 7:00 PM with President Linda Touraine calling the meeting to order. Linda welcomed visitor Andy Eads and son. There were 25 in attendance including our speaker and visitors.

A motion was made by Marilyn Simms to accept the minutes from the January meeting. Mel Brewer seconded the motion. Motion passed. Treasurers report was accepted as read.

Our Genealogy Society received a book, "Descendants of William and Anne Riley Sanders" from the author Patricia Ann Henderson. The book will be placed in the genealogy section of the library.

Kathy Strauss reminded everyone about the Lock In for genealogist at the library on Feb 27th. Cost is \$10.00 including meal.

Bob McCombs asked about the progress being made in book scanning. Subject was discussed with no definite findings.

Marilyn Simms introduced our

speaker, KeLvin Meyers. Mr. Meyers presented "The Hand that Rocked the Cradle Could Rule the World."

Marilyn Simms spoke about the April dinner and May meetings.

Meeting was dismissed by President Linda Touraine.

Respectfully submitted; Shirley Harris



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Jan 31, 2009	\$2,071.38	Library Donations	
		April 1995 - May 06	\$2,876.52
		June 2006 - June 08	500.00
Funds Deposited		Birth Books Sold (60)	\$1,950.00
Interest	<u>.45</u>	Printing Cost (200)	-2,049.13
Total Deposits	\$.45	Postage	-118.69
		Sales Tax Paid	-104.78
Funds Disbursed		Advertising (1)	<u>-30.00</u>
Speaker Fee	\$ 75.00	Profit	\$ -352.60
Postage	42.00	Death Books Sold (142)	\$3,279.72
Domain Renewal	19.92	Printing Cost (300)	-1,593.15
Check Order	<u>16.28</u>	Consignment Fees	-400.00
Total Disbursed	\$ 153.20	Postage	-156.99
		Sales Tax Paid	-77.19
Balance Feb. 28, 2009	\$1,918.63	Advertising	<u>-237.45</u>
		Profit	\$ 814.94

2008-2009 Paid Members—49

Respectfully Submitted,
Holly Hervey, Treasurer



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Programs:

11 March 2009, 10:00 AM—Texas Historical Marker for O'Neil Ford.

Emily Fowler Central Library.

28 March 2009, 10:00 AM—"Westward Migration." Call the Genealogy Desk to reserve your spot.

4 April 2009, 10:00 AM—"Immigration and Naturalization Records." Call the Genealogy Desk to reserve your spot.

Volunteer opportunities abound in the Special Collections department at Emily Fowler. We will soon be working on rehousing many of our fragile materials in archival quality phase boxes, folders, and pamphlet binders. This work has been made possible by a preservation grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Please see one of the Special Collections staff members if you

would like to assist with these projects.

If you have wandered the stacks of the Special Collections, you may notice that we have grown. Book and periodicals have returned from the bindery, and are now being cataloged and added to the shelves. Many of these items have never been cataloged before, so make sure you take a look at the new materials in your favorite subject areas. These materials include the paperback books that were bought with the Genealogy Society's donation last year. Also, remember that the periodicals are indexed in PERSI, which is available through Heritage Quest.

Take advantage of the many genealogy electronic resources at the Denton Public Library. All three branches offer free access to Ancestry Library Edition, New England Ancestors, Heritage Quest, Footnote, Family Search, Newspaper Archive.com, America's Genealogy Bank, Dallas Morning News Historical Archive. You don't even need a library card to access these wonderful resources in the library. Many of these are also available from home with a Denton Public Library card.

COLOGNE CITY ARCHIVES COLLAPSES

On March 3, 2009, large cracks appeared in the foundation of the city archives of Cologne, Germany. In the next few seconds, the building suddenly collapsed in a pile of rubble. At least two people were killed and several more are missing. Two buildings on either side of the archive were also partially destroyed.

The archive contained countless documents, the earliest from 922 A.D. Founded in 1406, the archive survived many wars, including World War II. The collapsed building was built in 1971. The loss to the contents has not yet been determined. Many have volunteered to assist with the

salvage of materials and to help search the debris for those lost.

Some of these records had been microfilmed by the LDS Church, and they may be able to provide copies of lost records.



BACK TO BASICS

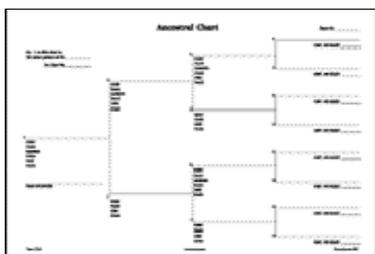
By Kathy Strauss

Begin with what you know and work backwards. So begins most lectures on basic genealogy. Gathering information from family members who remember their parents and grandparents can help the family historian begin to synthesize generations and family groups.

Research also plays an important role for the family historian. Whether the information about a family or individual is found on the numerous online databases, microprint sources, or from books, the researcher can gain insight into who their family was, and how they fit into the communities in which they lived.

During the course of this all of this activity, there is a lot of paper generated. The researcher can organize the information by family generations, or by record type. How, then, does the researcher record what they have learned about their family?

Two basic forms help the genealogical researcher record information about families. The first is the pedigree or ancestral chart. The second is the family group sheet. Whether these forms are on paper or as part of computerized genealogical software, the forms are basically the same.



The pedigree or ancestral chart is a form to use to keep track of the lines of a family. The format is fairly standard, and usually include 4, 5, or 6 generations. They can be hand-drawn, downloaded from electronic resources such as Ancestry.com, can be found on the internet, or can be part of a report form generated by a genealogy software package. There are also several vendors who offer artistically drawn charts suitable for framing. The pedigree chart is read from left to right, and

follows an individual family line. The individual, either male or female is listed as the first generation, with his/her parents making up the second generation, and so forth. Beginning with the second generation, the males are listed on the top, and females are listed below. Underneath each individual on the chart, is listed the date and place of birth, marriage, and death. Sometimes the spouse is listed below the first-generation individual.

Where pedigree chart shows an outline view of a family, a family group sheet expands each generational couple to include children. These forms are as abundantly available as pedigree charts, and form the basis of most genealogy software.

The image shows a family group sheet form. It is a table with multiple columns and rows. The columns are labeled with names and dates. The rows represent different generations of a family. The form is designed to record the names, birth dates, death dates, and marriage dates of individuals in a family group. It is a standard form used in genealogy software and on paper.

A family group sheet, which can be two-sided, provides space to record the husband and wife, with all of the dates and places of birth, death, and marriage. Some give a space to list their parents, as well. The children are listed below with the dates and places of birth, death, and marriage, and a place to record their spouses. Some two-sided form have a place for research notes and sources.

These two basic forms are of vital importance in genealogy. They help with organizing the family lines and can provide clues for further research. The family historian should review these forms periodically, especially when they are up against a "brick wall." Many people have gained new insight into successive generations by looking at where children migrated, and the surnames of the male spouses of female children.

ANCESTRY QUICK TIPS

Finding Lost Females

Often the female children, or female siblings of your relative, are "lost" in the census once they marry and move away from home. Or perhaps they were sent to live with others to work or care for another family's children, as my grandmother and her twin sister were.

A couple times I found sisters who were on the 1900 census as children were not found again until the 1920 or 1930 census. On the later censuses I found them through locating their widowed mothers, identified as the mother-in-law of the head of household. Now her married name has been discovered, it's possible to search back on a previous decade's census for her with her husband. Anne Witzig

Ankle Power!

In graduate school, thirty years ago, I ran across a book listing the people buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile, Alabama. I was thrilled to find many of my relatives listed, with birth and death dates. It was a good start to my own personal journey through history. But one person was missing. My great-great-grandmother was nowhere to be found. Her parents, siblings, husband, and one child were listed, but not her. For thirty years I couldn't find her listed after the 1900 census. After trying everything I could think of, I decided to drive the sixty miles to Mobile, find the cemetery, and look for myself. After searching the cemetery's computer records with no luck, I walked to the two family plots. There she was. Her head and footstone had been placed on top of her husband's slab many years after her death and had been completely overlooked by everyone. Her birth date and death date were clear, as was part of her name and her relationship to her husband. We have become so accustomed to relying on computers that we forget that the old fashioned way has its strengths too. Amazing what a little ankle power can do! Bobbye Carroll

Google Books

I knew my husband descended from Lewis Walker of Chester County, Pennsylvania, because of my mother-in-law's book, "Lewis Walker of Chester County and his descendents" by Priscilla Walker Streets. Then I discovered [Google Books](#). Google has scanned many out of print books and put them in PDFs. I also found "Biographical Annals of Montgomery County Pennsylvania," by Ellwood Roberts. This gave me more information on not only his ancestry, but occupations, relationships, and land ownership. Ancestry.com records and these books helped tell his family's history. They compliment each other. Gentree

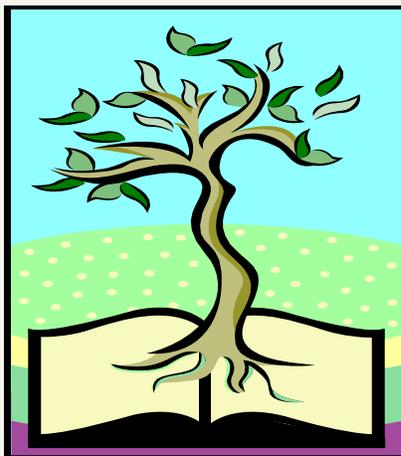
Creative Searching Pays Off

This is a note to tell you not to give up if you can not find your ancestor in a census. I knew that Timothy Mahagan and his family had emigrated from Ireland in 1860. I could not find them for years and years. Finally I decided to try the 1870 census one more time. I put in only the wife's first name, approximate birth date, Ireland, and the state of New York. Finally paydirt! They were listed with the surname Hagan. That was so encouraging I decided to try the 1860 census using the name of a son who would have been two years old at the time. This time they were under the name MaHigging. I found two additional children that I wasn't aware of and the oldest daughter, who is listed in 1880 as Anna, is listed as Hannah in the other two.

So don't give up. Keep trying different ways of searching. Now if I can ever figure out what happened to the newly "found" son, Jeremiah. Mary Mahagan, Skaneateles, New York

2008-2009 OFFICERS

President—Linda Touraine
 Vice-President—Marilyn Simms
 Secretary—Shirley Harris
 Treasurer—Holly Hervey
 Librarian—Kathy Strauss
 Webmaster—Chris Strauss
 Parliamentarian—Diane Abner



**NEXT MEETING OF
 THE DENTON
 COUNTY
 GENEALOGICAL
 SOCIETY WILL BE ON
 April 9, 2009
 Emily Fowler Central
 Library
 502 Oakland St.
 Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 424707
Denton, TX 76204