

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 9, 2010



1896- Denton County Courthouse-

PROGRAM: “FamilySearch Indexing: Online Worldwide Research”

SPEAKER: Patti Gillespie

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

Patti Gillespie began doing genealogy at the age of 16 in the olden days of paper and stamps. She began doing online research for herself and others as soon as

the research appeared online. Patti accepted the opportunity to administrate Family SearchIndexing volunteer efforts in the Denton & Wise County areas 4 years ago. She has acted as a volunteer for Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK) for the last 5 years.

Patti has been married for 33 years. She has 6 children, 1 still at home. She has been a resident of Wise County for 25 years.

A NEW YEAR

By E. Richard Thomas, DCGS President

Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc. was organized in 1979. Over the years, Denton County Genealogical Society has grown from the original eighteen charter members to 40 participating members. As the new Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc. President, I would like to thank all the people who have worked so hard over the last thirty-one years to make Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc. the fine organization it is today. I look forward to our organization growing even more.

A new group of members has committed to lead and direct Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc. into the future. These new Officers, Committee Chairpersons and Committee members are dedicated to build upon the past to make the future even better. We will be working to provide the best programs, speakers, and genealogical information that will be informative, and assist our new members in their genealogical research. We are looking forward to a new year and a new era for the Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc.

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ANCESTRY FAMILY HISTORY TIPS

Transparent Yellow Overlay

I've transcribed thousands of birth and death archival data for the [Missouri Digital Heritage site](#) and along the way, I've had a chance to work with lots of hundred year-old handwriting - some very legible, some barely legible and some beautiful Spencerian script that was "sneaky illegible" - almost too fancy to read.

Based on a tip from one of their staff, I tried a light yellow plastic overlay on the worst entries. The idea was to heighten the contrast and it does help in some cases. The overlay I used most was a plastic protective folder that will hold 10-20 copies but I also had some luck with yellow cellophane gift wrap.

Good luck, Jerry Rutter

Deciphering Illegible Handwriting

A handwritten word on a document isn't legible. The document doesn't have enough handwriting on it to help decipher the word. What do you do? Find more documents written by the same person. A death certificate on Ancestry.com had a city I couldn't quite read. So I selected the same county, year, and month as on the death certificate and browsed for certificates with the same undertaker. The handwriting on these additional certificates helped me solve my problem. Deborra Wood

Help from Historical Societies

We knew a relative was buried in a cemetery in a small town and learned that the town had a historical society. We emailed them and learned that they not only had the complete layout of the cemetery with the names and dates of those interred, but also gave us a map showing where the family lived. Someone from the society went to the cemetery and took pictures of the

tombstones of our family members and emailed them to us so that when we visited in June we could find it quickly. They shared a wealth of information about the area and added a lot to our family history. This is the second time we have been helped by a historical or cemetery society. Pauline Needham

Gold in 1925 State Census

Both sides of my family settled in Iowa either after immigrating or when relocating from the East coast. I have found quite a bit of information in the 1925 Iowa census. On the second page, following the usual listing, each person gives their parents' names (including mother's maiden name) and their birthplace. I've matched up siblings and found names for ancestors who stayed behind. I wish other states had used the same census form!

Christine Gibson

Surprising Clues on Videotape

When the video camera first became popular, I videotaped everything. I recently started watching the older ones to see which I wanted to copy to a DVD, before they deteriorated. I was watching one that I had taped twenty-five years ago, of a trip I took with my mother and her sister to the area where they grew up. As I watched the video, I realized that while I was taping the pretty fall leaves, they were talking about the farms we were passing, and who had lived there when they were growing up. I picked up information about family members that I would never have gotten any other way. We also stopped by the cemetery on that trip, and on that same tape was valuable information about tombstones going several generations back. I accidentally found a gold mine of information. Shirley Krampf

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

\$15.00 / Person

\$25.00/Couple

MAY MINUTES

President Linda Touraine opened the meeting welcoming all and a special welcome to new member Veneta Lewis. There were 18 persons present.

In the business meeting, Marilyn Simms made a motion to accept the minutes as posted on the website. Motion seconded by Fran Shurtleff. Motion passed. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Norma Curry, seconded by Fran Shurtleff. Motion passed.

Linda Touraine presented the slate of officers submitted by the Nomination Committee: President – E. Richard Thomas; Vice-President/Program – Dayonne Work; Secretary – Cynthia Gage; Treasurer – Holly Hervey; and Librarian – Kathy Strauss. Kathy Strauss made a motion to accept the slate of nominees and that they be elected by acclamation; motion was seconded by Norma Curry. The motion was unanimously approved.

Kathy Strauss is asking for everyone to send their tips, ideas, and stories to be printed in our newsletter.

If you have any program ideas, please let the new Vice President, Dayonne Work, know.

Treasurer Holly Hery submitted a recommendation that a member be added to the society's bank account as an additional person that can sign on the account for when the Treasurer will

be unavailable to do so. Richard Thomas, newly elected president, nominated Linda Touraine as the signer to be added to the account. Motion seconded by Mel Brewer. Motion passed.

Kathy Strauss thanked the DCGS for the donation to the genealogy section of the library. She also requests that the members provide suggestions for materials to purchase.

The genealogy lock-ins held at the library might need to be cancelled due to rising cost to the library. After much discussion, it was decided to increase the cost from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per person. Attendees to bring their own brown bag lunch and to have fee free speakers were also decided on as ways to cut cost.

Texas Scottish and Highlands Society will be meeting June 4th in Arlington. Mesquite Historical Society is also hosting a workshop soon. Contact Linda Touraine for details.

Our Round Robin program showcased some of our members triumphs, favorite tips, and websites. Marilyn Simms introduced our presenters. After discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Harris, Secretary DCGS

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The Executive Board Meeting of the DCGS was called to order by President Richard Thomas in the meeting room of the Emily Fowler Library on August 19.

Minutes from the July 2009 Executive Board Meeting and the 31 July 2010 Treasurer's Report were reviewed. Holly Hervey made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mel Brewer. Motion was made by Vicki Davis to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Chris Strauss. Both approved.

The Genealogy After Dark lock-in will be held at Emily Fowler Library on September 24 from 6-11PM with Diana White as speaker. Changes from previous years will include bring your own brown bag dinner (we provide drink and dessert) and the \$15 charge will become a 2010-2011 membership fee for first time members. Motion for approval made by Diana and seconded by Holly. Approved.

Motion was made by Jane Knox to bring back refreshments and seconded by Joyce Pool. Approval was given with the stipulations that they be minimal and no beverages. Coffee and hot tea may be made on sight or members may bring their own beverage.

Richard proposed making Webmaster a committee. Motion was made by Mel that Chris Strauss be Webmaster and seconded by

Dayonne Work. Approved. Holly made a motion that Webmaster Committee and Program Committee be standing committees. Seconded by Vicki. Passed. Kathy Strauss requests newsletter information and articles be sent to her two weeks prior to meetings.

Richard's work on a visitor's packet was discussed and approved with a motion from Holly and second from Dayonne.

The Executive Committee agreed to make available a room at the library for a session in 2011 of the Texas State Genealogical Society per request of Vice President, John Wylie. Further details will follow with a confirmed date. Mel and Vickie agreed to serve on a committee to review the by-laws.

Dues for the 2010-2011 membership year need to be paid to Holly.

Richard adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Gage

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance July 31, 2010	\$ 1,468.52	Birth Books Sold (61)	\$1,985.00
Deposits		Printing Cost (200)	-2,049.13
Dues	\$105.00	Postage	-118.69
Lock In Reg.	<u>15.00</u>	Sales Tax Paid	-110.95
Total	\$120.00	Advertising (1)	<u>-30.00</u>
		Profit	\$ -323.77
Balance Aug 31, 2010	\$1,588.52	Death Books Sold (144)	\$3,354.72
2010-2011 Paid Members—27		Printing Cost (300)	-1,593.15
Library Donations		Consignment Fees	-425.00
April 1995 - May 06	\$2,876.52	Postage	-156.99
June 2006 – April 2010	1,810.00	Sales Tax Paid	-79.25
		Advertising	<u>-237.45</u>
		Profit	\$ 862.88
		Respectfully Submitted,	
		Holly Hervey, Treasurer	

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

This interesting article appeared in *The Weekly Genealogist*, Vol. 13, No. 35 from the **New England Historical Genealogical Society**. It reports the result of a survey the Society conducted about visiting your public library for genealogical research.

While 45% visit weekly, monthly, or quarterly, an astonishing 33% never go to the library, and almost 50% never use their public library's website.

Many of these are likely made up of two types of researchers: individuals who think that if the library does not have a genealogy section, there is nothing there to assist them; or individuals who think that if their ancestors did not live in the local area, the local public library will not be able to assist them. It is unfortunate that these people choose to ignore a major asset for their genealogical research.

Public libraries have research assistance in many corners. Books on general American history can help you place your ancestors in historical context. They may have subscriptions to history journals and popular magazines that will also help in this area. Understanding the historical context of the area where your ancestors lived may help you find more clues to identify who they were and where they came from.

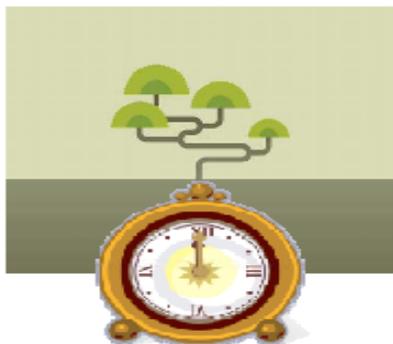
One of the biggest reasons to visit your local public library is InterLibrary Loan (ILL). No one library (not even the Harvard University library system) has every item ever

published. Many books and articles can be borrowed through ILL from libraries around the country (as well as many places elsewhere) and brought to your local library for you to use. Amazingly enough, not everything is on the internet, or even available digitally. Many records still exist only in the original or on microfilm. Microfilms of many materials can also be borrowed through ILL.

If you never visit your library or its website, how do you know there is nothing there to assist you? Libraries are constantly getting in new materials, subscribing to new online databases, and otherwise acquiring materials to help you. Without regular visits (both in person and online), how would you know if these materials would be of assistance?

One of the more valuable resources at the library is also the reference staff. It is their job to assist you with finding answers to your questions. They will also have access to materials to assist you that may not be readily apparent. The important thing to remember is not to restrict yourself in your thinking. Don't limit yourself to thinking that because your ancestors didn't live in your local area, or that if your library doesn't have a specific genealogy section that they have no materials for genealogists. Take advantage of this free resource.





Genealogy After Hours

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

Genealogists, here's your chance to do hours of uninterrupted research in the library. Our guest speakers for the evening will be Diana White, DCGS member. She will be discussing genealogy research using land records. Bring a brown-bag supper and drink. We will provide an after-dinner treat. In addition, to we will have one-on-one research help. There is a \$15.00 registration fee for the evening. **Receive a free membership to the DCGS** (not applicable to current or renewing members). Checks should be made payable to the Denton County Genealogical Society. This event is co-sponsored by the Denton Public Library and the Denton County Genealogical Society.

Friday, September 24, 2010

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

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



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

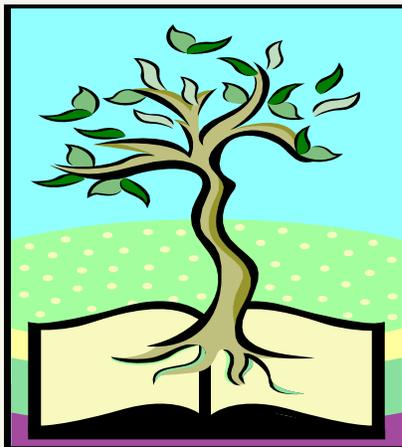


Register at the Emily Fowler Central Library Genealogy Department or by mail. \$15.00 registration fee. Receive a free membership to the Denton Co. Genealogy Society (not applicable to current or renewing members). Remember to bring a brown-bag dinner and drink. For more information please call 940.349.8749.

Name _____ Address _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

2009-2010 OFFICERS

- President—E. Richard Thomas
- Vice-President—Dayonne Work
- Secretary—Cynthia Gage
- Treasurer—Holly Hervey
- Librarian—Kathy Strauss
- Webmaster—Chris Strauss
- Parliamentarian—Vickie Davis



**NEXT MEETING OF THE
DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
OCT 14, 2010
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201