

# 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 10, 2011



1896- Denton County Courthouse-

**PROGRAM: "What Can the FAMILY HISTORY CENTER (FHC) Do for Me?"**

**SPEAKER: KAREN PITTMAN**

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

The Family History Center has files that many are unaware of. Many of the "for fee" genealogical sites are free at the FHC; genealogical help is available from the friendly staff; microfilm and fiche can be ordered on loan from the Salt Lake Family History Library (film \$5.50 and fiche 15 cents per card, checks not cash); located in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints building where Broken Bow Street meets Old North Road (entrance is beside the satellite dish); hours Tuesday 10-2 and Wed 10-9; phone 940-484-5036.

Karen Pittman has been interested in and doing genealogy since she was in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. But, it wasn't until she

was grown and had joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1978 that she learned that there were forms to fill out, and that she'd missed the opportunity to get important information. Once personal computers became popular, she found her niche to be able to help others in genealogy. She has been working at the FHC in Denton since about 1992.

Other interests are varied. She single-handedly remodeled the walls of her bathroom, and in the process learned how to fix dry rot, put up insulation, sheetrock, and paneling. She built numerous shelving units for a shed, at the same time that she was designing and making a double-wedding ring quilt and a couple of flower arrangements. At one point she got her amateur radio license, progressing to an Advanced license, in order to please her husband and be able to teach others. She delights in being able to write up detailed "How-to" instructions, so that others can do what they want to be able to do.

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Program: "What Can the Family History Center (FHC) Do for Me?" Speaker: Karen Pittman	1
January 2011 Minutes Treasurer's Report	2
Genealogy After Hours	3
Preserve the Pensions!	4
Ancestry Family History Tips	5



**JANUARY 2011 MINUTES**

Social time refreshments were provided by Diane Abner and Susan McIntosh.

Richard Thomas called the meeting to order and acknowledged visitors Sean Meacham, Elaine Kennedy, Tara Carlisle, Joan Delashaw, Mary Hunter, Ann Winans, Susan Schwartz, Harold Lippold and Ruth Anderton. Minutes of the November meeting were accepted with a motion from Marilyn Simms and second from Sandra Marsh. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Shirley Sawyer and seconded by Norma Curry. Kathy Strauss suggested DCGS membership fee might be included in the cost of Genealogy After Hours on March 4. Motion to do that was made by Cindy Gage and seconded by Chris Strauss.

In new business, Wanda Samek and Marilyn Simms were nominated to attend the Texas State Genealogical Society meeting to be held at our North Branch Library on Saturday, February 5. A motion for their appointment was made by Shirley Harris and seconded by Diana White. Dayonne Work introduced our speaker, Lynell Bennett Moss, who presented an informative program on land and property records. Richard adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Cindy Gage

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

<b>Balance Oct 31, 2010</b>	<b>\$ 2,138.64</b>	Postage	-118.69
<b>Disbursements</b>		Sales Tax Paid	-110.95
Supplies	\$ 19.47	Advertising (1)	<u>-30.00</u>
FGS Dues	<u>35.00</u>	Profit	\$ -253.77
Total	\$ 54.47	Death Books Sold (145)	\$3,404.72
<b>Balance Jan 31, 2011</b>	<b>\$2,084.17</b>	Printing Cost (300)	-1,593.15
<b>2010-2011 Paid Members—46</b>		Consignment Fees	-425.00
Library Donations		Postage	-156.99
April 1995 - May 06	\$2,876.52	Sales Tax Paid	-79.25
June 2006 – April 2010	1,810.00	Advertising	<u>-237.45</u>
Birth Books Sold (63)	\$2,055.00	Profit	\$ 912.88
Printing Cost (200)	-2,049.13		

Respectfully Submitted,  
Holly Hervey, Treasurer



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

# Genealogy After Hours

Special Guest Speaker: **AARON HOLT**  
National Archives, Southwest Region

The speaker for the evening will be Aaron Holt who will talk about the various Military Records that can be accessed via NARA. He will cover records from the Revolution to the present, be they online, microfilm, or records that have to be requested in writing.

Bring a brown-bag supper and drink. We will provide an after-dinner treat. In addition, we will have one-on-one research help. There is a \$15.00 registration fee for the evening. This event is co-sponsored by the Denton Public Library and the Denton County Genealogical Society.

**Friday, March 4, 2011**

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

**Emily Fowler Central Library**  
502 Oakland Street  
(940) 349-8752  
www.dentonlibrary.com



Register at the Emily Fowler Central Library Genealogy Department or by mail.  
\$15.00 registration fee. Remember to bring a brown-bag dinner and drink.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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



Published 01/2011 ADA/EQE/ADEA TDD: (800) 735-2989

## PRESERVE THE PENSIONS!

With the approaching bicentennial of the War of 1812, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, a non-profit genealogical organization headquartered in Austin, Texas, is pleased to announce a national fundraising initiative to raise \$3.7 million to digitize of the War of 1812 pension files. The digitization process will enable online access by historians and family researchers to the memories and biographies of those who fought to protect our nation's independence. This announcement is being made at the start of the National Genealogical Society's 2010 conference, an event that will draw more than two thousand genealogists to Salt Lake City, Utah.

The War of 1812, often referred to as America's second war for independence, significantly shaped this country's identity both internationally and domestically. Many remember the War of 1812 as the war that gave us the "Star-Spangled Banner" and the burning of the White House. Some of the great leaders of our country, including three presidents, took part in this conflict. Nearly 300,000 men served, including members of at least eighteen Native American tribes.

The pension records for the War of 1812 consist of more than 7.2 million documents in 180,000 files. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) receives more than three thousand requests per year for War of 1812 pensions, placing them among the most requested sets of records. Digitizing these valuable records will preserve the originals by removing them from continued heavy use. It will also make the images of the records much more widely available. NARA reports these important historical records already have been conserved and readied for digitization, so scanning

could start as soon as funds are received. With the cost for digitizing and saving a single page from a pension file being fifty cents, supporters will see progress from the earliest days of the fundraising initiative.

Genealogists, historians, and scholars of military history have long appreciated the value of pension files. A typical pension file may contain documents that describe a veteran's service as well as why he, his widow, or his dependents qualify for a pension. In the cases of widows' and dependents' filings, there are typically a number of documents proving the claimant is related to the veteran. The testimony of a veteran's comrades can provide unique and valuable data on what military life entailed, the rigors of everyday camp life, and details of particular skirmishes and battles. One may discover numerous details of an ancestor's life in these pension files, some of which may be many dozens of pages long.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies is committed to projects that link the genealogical community and advance the cause of preserving records and making them more accessible. The Federation will be working with the genealogical and historical societies nation-wide, particularly in states where War of 1812 activities took place, as well as the many War of 1812 societies and bicentennial commissions, to raise awareness about this vital preservation and access project and to raise the funds necessary to complete the project. Those interested in contributing to the Preserve the Pensions! Project or wanting additional information should contact the Federation of Genealogical Societies via their website at [www.fgs.org/1812](http://www.fgs.org/1812), or contact Curt Witcher at 260-421-1226 or [1812@FGS.org](mailto:1812@FGS.org).



Period American Flag



Six Nations survivors of the War

## ANCESTRY FAMILY HISTORY TIPS

### Rescuing a Lost Bible

I discovered an inscribed Bible at a church thrift store in Missoula, Montana. The next day I took my camera and photographed the births, marriages, etc. recorded therein. There was even a newspaper clipping of the parents for their golden wedding anniversary celebration. After I built a family tree on Ancestry.com using the details in the Bible, Ancestry.com led me to other related trees. So I sent a message to all those relatives and arrived home from work to a message on my phone from a gal in the neighboring town who said she would go buy that Bible the next day. Another relative in Washington wrote and would have had me send it to her had it not already been spoken for. I posted the photos and transcriptions so that all the family members can download them and update their trees. Donna

### Stories in Old Deeds

Sometimes old deeds contain more information than just property descriptions. In tracing our antique house back through the various deeds I came across one that was absolutely fascinating. The husband had lost the farm to the bank by mortgaging it to fund a business that apparently never got off the ground. The wife bought it back from the bank in the late 1800s "free of all influence of her husband" and the deed went on to outline an agreement between her and her son, who was farming the place, for joint ownership and shared responsibilities until her death upon which he would own the farm.

Virginia Laplante, New Hampshire

### Insurance Papers

One would think there would be no need for old insurance papers but check them before discarding them.

I have my father's old papers and on the inside is a negative copy of the original application stating all kinds of things. It includes the date of the appendix operation he had, their address at the time so I could "timeline" where we were and when. (We had moved to four different cities in my first five years of life.) So don't throw them away. Those old insurance papers just might contain some interesting family history.

Sandra McGraw, Connecticut

### Be Careful What You Throw Away

When my ex-wife passed away, I had the task of helping my son to plow through the endless boxes of "stuff" in her house. I refused to just throw things away, opting for systematically going through the boxes to be sure nothing useful was lost.

I was sitting on the floor, about 3/4ths through a 2' x 2' x 2' box when I saw a mouse (complete with nursing babies) fly through the detritus in the bottom of the box. I caught her (I used to raise laboratory animals) and found a safe home for her and her babies. Then I went through each thing in the box. There was a folded up, yellowed piece of paper that the mouse had been chewing on (folded three times in one direction and twice in the other with a paper clip on it). I could so easily have thrown it away. Notice the mouse's teeth marks.

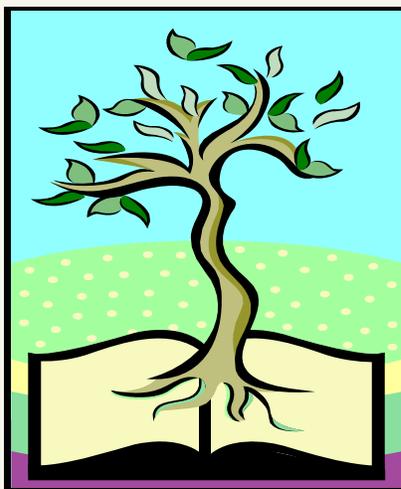
Inside were the names and birth dates of her great-grandfather and seven of his siblings.

Be careful what you throw away. The tiniest thing may be the key to lost relatives.

Wayne Peterson  
Hillsborough, NC

### 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  
FEBRUARY 10, 2011  
Emily Fowler Central  
Library  
502 Oakland St.  
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street  
Denton, TX 76201