

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, MARCH 10, 2011

PROGRAM: "How to Research a Common Surname"

SPEAKER: Don Raney



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

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Donald Raney is a sixth generation Texan who has been an active genealogist for over 30 years. He has been a frequent speaker at many genealogical society meetings in East Texas, Houston and the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

On the national level, Mr. Raney has presented sessions at GENTECH, Federation of Genealogical Societies, Angelina College Genealogy Conference and the Genealogical Institute of Texas. He is a life member of the San Jacinto Descendants and past director of GENTECH and the Dallas Genealogical Society's Computer Interest Group.

A registered professional engineer, Mr. Raney graduated from SMU with a BS in Civil Engineering and completed a long professional career with Lone Star Gas Company before retiring in 1997 as Chief Engineer. He is currently teaching Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Genealogy courses at Richland College. He published a book, "Martin Varner, Texas Pioneer; 1785-1844," in September 2009. This book describes the life and adventures of his GGG

Grandfather, Martin Varner, in Colonial Texas.

His topic is: "How to Research a Common Surname"

The quantity of good genealogical information on the Internet continues to grow. It is now possible to solve many of your brick wall genealogical research problems with information available at several key genealogical sites on the Internet. This research allowed me to identify and document three generations of the Miller family using only Internet resources.

This lecture is a step by step 'how to' example of the research techniques that can be used to solve many difficult genealogical problems using sources that are available on the Internet. Miller is the seventh most common surname which results in the typical research problems in identifying ancestors with a common surname. This lecture demonstrates the Internet research techniques used to identify the parents of my great grandmother, Anna Miller, among the 22 Miller families in Claiborne Parish, LA in the 1850 Census.

Clues found on Internet sites using land records, census records, USGenWeb County Sites, and Advanced Google searches led me from Claiborne Parish, LA to Warren (now Allen) County, KY, to Pendleton District (now Pickens County), SC where the Miller family settled about 1780.

FEBRUARY 2011 MINUTES

Richard Thomas called our meeting to order at 7 pm. Recognized visitors were Dorothy Cagle, Marlena Lane, and Rodney Lane. Also, Adrien Roy Ortega and Fritz Poppe were introduced as a film crew from the UNT tv station filming our speaker for a future broadcast.

The minutes were approved as written and accepted with a motion from Marilyn Simms and second by Chris Strauss. The treasurer's report was approved with a motion from Linda Touraine and second by Sandra Marsh. The Texas State Genealogical meeting was changed from February 5 to March 20 because of icy roads. Genealogy After Hours will be March 4.

Many thanks to Mel Brewer for all he does for the Society. Most recently that includes a new official

Denton Genealogical Society poster. The poster was approved with a motion from Diana White and a second from J.B. Smith.

Dayone Work introduced our speaker, Karen Pittman. Her topic was "Gems at the Family History Center". We were given an extensive list of materials we could access at their facility here in Denton.

Richard adjourned the meeting.
Submitted by Cindy Gage

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balance Jan. 31, 2011	\$ 2,084.17	Printing Cost (200)	-2,049.13
Deposits		Postage	-118.69
Lock-in reg.	\$ 15.00	Sales Tax Paid	-110.95
Dues	<u>25.00</u>	Advertising (1)	<u>-30.00</u>
Total	\$ 40.00	Profit	\$ -253.77
Disbursements		Death Books Sold (145)	\$3,404.72
TX Sales Tax	\$ <u>13.16</u>	Printing Cost (300)	-1,593.15
Total	\$ 13.16	Consignment Fees	-425.00
Balance Feb 28, 2011	\$2,111.01	Postage	-156.99
2010-2011 Paid Members—49		Sales Tax Paid	-79.25
Library Donations		Advertising	<u>-237.45</u>
April 1995 - May 06	\$2,876.52	Profit	\$ 912.88
June 2006 – April 2010	1,810.00		
Birth Books Sold (63)	\$2,055.00		

Respectfully Submitted,
Holly Hervey, Treasurer



NATIONAL ARCHIVES GENEALOGY RESEARCH ROOM AT MONTGOMERY PLAZA IN FORT WORTH

Unearthing family histories will be a lot easier for genealogists starting February 27, 2011 when the National Archives at Fort Worth opens a new public research room at Montgomery Plaza on West Seventh Street.

"I think we are going to be very, very busy," said Preston Huff, regional administrator for the archives.

Archives staff members got a preview of demand over the last week as they completed the move.

"I probably talked to a dozen researchers that were already hoping we were open," Huff said.

For decades, the research room has been housed in a bleak 1940s-era brick warehouse ringed by barbed-wire fences at the Federal Depot off Felix Street in south Fort Worth.

"We're going to get a lot of walk-in traffic at Montgomery Plaza -- that just didn't happen before," Huff said.

The new research room will house microfilmed and digitized records used primarily for family history research. It will have 10 public-access computers for searching online genealogical information. The big plus for researchers is free access to paid genealogical sites like [Ancestry.com](#) and [Footnote.com](#), which are partners with the National Archives in digitizing records.

Another draw will be help in navigating the maze of public records from the archives staff and 15 trained volunteers. Huff hopes the new room will become a social center with a coffee-shop atmosphere.

"People are interested in the databases, but they want the help of professional staffs and to network socially that they can't get at home," he said. "We decided to make it more friendly and comfortable

and allow people to bring in beverages -- we haven't done that anywhere else in the country."

The research room will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and the third Saturday of each month. Huff expects demand for later hours and more Saturdays.

"We're going to see what people are asking for," he said. "I think we will get slammed on that first Saturday we are open in March."

The archives moved more than 2 million historical documents last year from the old depot to the new 205,000-square-foot Federal Records Center on John Burgess Drive in south Fort Worth.

Among the original documents are a collection of American Indian records associated with the Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma, 10,000 square feet of NASA records and other gems such as the colorful records compiled by Isaac Parker, known as "The Hanging Judge" when he dispensed rough justice in the Indian Territory in the late 1800s. People seeking access to original records at the archives' main facility must make an appointment to view them, and they are encouraged to notify the staff in advance, Huff said, noting that no original documents will be housed at the research room.

The center plans to offer genealogical workshops to help people get started, Huff said. "It's all about location and we are going to be accessible. Our numbers are going to be great."

Steve Campbell, 817-390-7981

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

A New Librarian in the Special Collections

Chuck Voellinger will begin his career as a professional librarian in the Special Collections on March 7, 2011. Chuck has been a Library Assistant with the Denton Public Library for many years. He completed his MLS at UNT, and has been anticipating a professional position.

Chuck has been “Mr. Chompers” in the popular children’s program, “Library Larry,” and he has provided music for library storytimes. Chuck also provided outreach storytimes for Denton area day cares.

Chuck has a keen interest in local history, and was active in the “Save Fry Street” initiative. He has also provided reference assistance at the Special Collections desk. Chuck is eager to meet each and every one of you. Please stop by the Special Collections Desk to meet him. We are very lucky to have him as part of our staff.

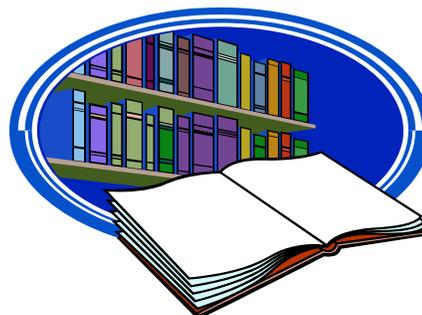


Volunteer Opportunities

Please consider volunteering your time in the Special Collections. There are many projects we are working on right now, including indexing, organizing materials, shifting collections, and helping to preserve our materials.

We all know your time is valuable. We offer you a chance to learn new things, and provide a valuable

service to your fellow researchers. Contact Mary Cresson at 349-8752. She works at Emily Fowler, and is in charge of volunteers.



Upcoming Events

Sam Houston & Secession

Why did Governor Sam Houston oppose secession, & how did he fight Texas’s becoming part of the Confederacy? Dr. Randolph Campbell, author of *Gone to Texas*, will examine these questions. A timely topic. Call 349-8752 for more information. 03/19/11 South Branch Library 2:00-3:30 pm

Sam Bass & Gang

The legendary Sam Bass refused to give up his companions to the trailing lawmen. In 1878, the chase ended with the famous gunfight on the streets of Round Rock, Texas. Come hear the story of the not-so-successful bandit. Presented by Rick Miller, Texas Historian and author of *Sam Bass & Gang*. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

03/26/11 Emily Fowler Library 10:00 am

Texas Geography & History

Dr. A. Ray Stephens, author of *The Historical Atlas of Texas*, will discuss the relationship between Texas geography & history. Call 349-8726 for more information. Copies of the book will be available for purchase

04/09/11 South Branch Library 2:00-3:30 pm

ANCESTRY FAMILY HISTORY TIPS

Middle Initial First

When searching in the census files, I found some relatives with their middle initial first. For example, James Samuel Kerr would be listed as S. James Kerr and Susan Victoria Kerr as V. Susan Kerr.

Also, I would like to say, if it wasn't for Ancestry.com, I would have never gotten a picture of my great-grandfather's sister and been able to converse with a great-grandson of hers. Amazing. Thank you. Susan

Knowing County History and Formation

While working on my research, I realized that, over the history of Illinois, the counties have evolved and divided as the territory grew in population. So, for example, Northwest Territory spun off the Indiana Territory, which in turn spun off the Illinois territory, and then the original two counties which comprised Illinois began to split every few years. The reason this is important is the fact that one may assume ancestry and records were from one county (in my case, Lake), when in fact, at the time my ancestors were in that area, Lake County didn't exist, and was a part of Clark County (1819), Pike County (1821), Putnam County (1825), Cook County (1831), McHenry county (1836), and finally Lake County (1839). So, records could be in any one of six county repositories. In reference to Illinois, two state publications can be found online, [Origin and Evolution of Illinois Counties](#) and [Illinois County Histories at the Illinois State Library](#) (which lists county seats for each county and dates). Try a search for other states and county origins and history and you'll probably find similar publications. Rich Schram, Geneva, Illinois

Plantation and Estate Names

One brick wall I have run into were town names that were not town names at all but plantation or estate names. After which some have become development names, sometimes village names or road names. If you are really lucky the home is still there and still bearing the same name. One such location that I was looking for was "Craney Island," which is down near Norfolk, Virginia. I was lucky to have been looking for another home in Hanover County and talking to the

county historian Mr. Giles, when he told me, "By the way, did you know the Meredith family owned Craney Island at one time, although the house is now gone." He told me the location, and lo and behold, there on the map was Craney Island Estates. So be diligent, you will find what you are looking for. Joan Scott Johnson

Stories in-Deed

In searching my German family of which I had little information, I found in the deed records an affidavit pertaining to the estate and the person who was known as a son. The affidavit stated the person was a foundling placed on the family doorstep. The baby was taken inside and the family raised him as their own. You never know what you can find in deed records. Mary (Stinson) Claunch-Walthall

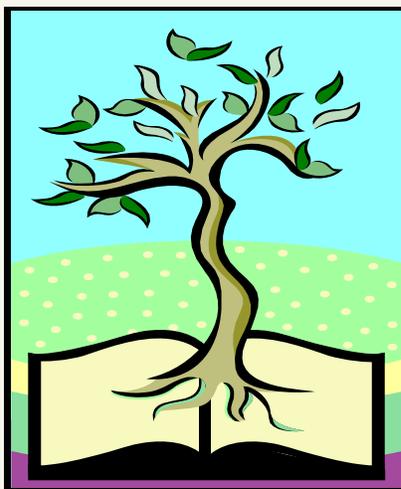
Rich Details in Wills

Wills can be a rich source of information for your family history. I have always been impressed by the last will and testament written in my great-great-grandfather's own hand the year before he died. He cared for each son and had some special duties for them as well as their legacy. His Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin will bequeathed the following:

1. To his eldest son the 25-acre farm worth \$300 but required him to give "within three years after my decease two thirds of the above sum to my three other sons, Andrew, Joseph, and Henry without interest, in case of refusal or after the expiration of the designated time he shall be bound to pay to his brothers the lawful interest."
 2. He required each son to give \$4 to any church from his legacy immediately after his death.
 3. To his eldest son: 1. One pair of oxen; 2. One cow of white color; 3. twenty-six dollars being the received price for my cow, sold; and 4. one bed complete.
 4. My son Joseph shall receive one bed, consisting of bed tick, one under pillow, and one bed sheet." (This seems to ensure the youngest had something to call his own!)
- Helen Gilsdorf

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**NEXT MEETING OF THE
 DENTON COUNTY
 GENEALOGICAL
 SOCIETY WILL BE ON
 APRIL 14, 2011
 Emily Fowler Central
 Library
 502 Oakland St.
 Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201