

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

NOVEMBER MEETING THURSDAY, NOV 8, 2012



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.genealogydentontexas.org

**PROGRAM: "PROBATE:
MORE THAN A WILL"
SPEAKER: KELVIN MEYERS**

Mr. Meyers is a popular speaker to many genealogical societies and family associations throughout Texas and brings a real knowledge of social sciences, history, genealogy, and "P.I." techniques to his work as a forensic genealogist. His genealogical research includes that of one family, an entire surname or a direct line of descent or ascent.

"Most persons in America, who lived to adulthood, left some type of an estate to be administered. Some left wills, some did not, either way if there was land or large amounts of personal property, this estate had to be disposed of. The records of probate can be some of the most fruitful for the genealogist. Wills, distributions, administrations, inventories, are all vital parts of the probate process and full of genealogical information; these are the things that will be discussed.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members

We have six new members so far this year! A warm welcome to Sloan (Jack) Black, Wilda Tisdale, Judy Flowers, Richard Kitchens, Linda Johnson, and Jeff Hyde.

Sign-In Request

When you check your name (just a CHECK, no full sign-ins for members!) this month, please indicate the year you joined the Society. We want to honor our members as they have contributed their time, effort, and support over the years.

T-Shirts

Denton County Genealogical Society t-shirts are now available: S,M,L,& XL are \$15, 2XL and 3XL are \$18. We will be taking pre-paid orders at the November meeting for delivery in January.

Lineage Societies

We are gathering basic information and website links to lineage societies to include on our website for use by our membership. If you have connections to one (or more) you would like to ensure their inclusion, please contact Mark at jmbrownmiller@centurytel.net or Mary at mbrownmiller@centinel.com.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear DCGS Friend,

Good news! We have a new website, and it's terrific. Chris Strauss is our webmaster, and he has spent many hours setting up and perfecting the site. Check it out at <http://www.genealogydentontexas.org/>. Be sure to dig a little and see all the helpful historical data about Denton County.

Several members had requested a program on DNA, so that's what we had in October. Roger Cobb provided us with an evening that was enjoyable and informative.

You'll like the program planned for the November 8 meeting, too. Kelvin Meyers is a Forensic Genealogist, and he will present a program for us on "Probate, More Than a Will." It will provide insight into an areas that is of utmost important to family researchers, and you won't want to miss it.

Maybe the best thing that has happened during the last month is that we have six new members. Yes, that was SIX new members. A big, hearty welcome to Jack Black, Jeff Hyde, Linda Johnson, Judy Flowers, Richard Kitchens, and Wilda Tisdale. Be sure to introduce yourself to them at the next meeting.

The Texas State Genealogical Society is holding its annual conference in Fort Worth at the Riley

Overheard:

Two ladies were talking together at a genealogical meeting. One woman was a bit of a snob. She said, "My family tree begins with my ancestors who arrived in America on the Mayflower!" The Other woman quickly replied, "Unfortunately we lost all our family records in The Flood!"

--Reprinted from *Our Ferree Family* website.

Center on November 1-3, 2012. The lecture tracks and speakers promise a great learning experience. As an affiliate of the state organization, representative members of the Denton County Genealogy Society will be in attendance. DCGS will have an exhibit table to show off our new posters and literature.

The "lock-in" at the library on October 19 was very successful. It was well attended, a lot of fun, and the "first-time, trial-run" Skype presentations from Waco, Houston, Austin, and Plano worked nicely. By the way, the last presentation was made by Susan Kaufman who is Manager of the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research in Houston. She is also President of the Texas State Genealogical Society.

A hearty "thanks" also goes to Kathy Strauss who presented a workshop on lineage applications at the library October 27.

Things are happening in our organization. Feel the excitement?



Wanda Samek, President

OCTOBER 2012 MINUTES

The October 2012 meeting of the Denton County Genealogical Society was called to order by President Wanda Samek. There were 29 members in attendance.

There being no corrections, the minutes of the September 2012, meeting were approved as presented in the Chapter's online newsletter. The Treasurer's report, also available in the newsletter, was filed for record.

Mark and Mary Brownmiller, co-chairs of the Membership Committee, announced there were seven visitors: Betty Belcher, Jeff Hyde, Don Whitfield, Allen Tate, Nita Thurman, and Allen and Julie Leal. We welcomed four new members: Wilda Tisdale, Judy Flowers, Richard Kitchens, and Linda Johnson.

Mark and Mary Brownmiller have agreed to chair the Hospitality Committee.

Danny Puckett, Historical Research Coordinator, had a flyer available at the meeting about the new services offered by the Society.

Chris Strauss is working hard on the new Society web site at genealogydentontexas.org. There is capacity to set up forums where members and visitors can seek help. Until all facets of the new site are functional, the old site will remain on line also.

Promotional posters designed by Laura Douglas have been printed and are available for distribution.

Kathy Strauss announced the Genealogy After Hours will be held at the Emily Fowler Branch of the Denton County Public Library from 6 p.m. To 11 p.m. There will be remote programs in cooperation with other Texas libraries which will be viewed in the meeting room. All genealogy resources will be available during this time.

The Texas State Genealogical Society is having their annual conference November 1-3, 2012 at the Riley Conference Center, 4726 Stanley Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas. Check out their web site for more information and registration: txsgs.org

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) is raising money to digitize the War of 1812 Pension Records and make them accessible on line for free. Donations will be matched dollar for dollar by Ancestry.com. To donate visit fgs.org and click on the Preserve the Pensions icon.

There was no new business.

Dayonne Work introduced the evening's speaker, Roger Cobb-Mills, who shed some light on the subject of DNA and genealogy.

The meeting was adjourned by Wanda Samek.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance September 30, 2012 **\$1,546.03**

Deposits

Dues	\$ 300.00
Donations	<u>15.00</u>
Total	\$ 315.00

Disbursements

Domain name renewal	\$ 20.82
October speaker	75.00
Printing posters	<u>47.63</u>
Total	\$143.45

Balance October 31, 2012 **\$1,717.58**

2012-2013 Paid Members – 50
2013-2014 Paid Members – 4
2014-2015 Paid Members – 1

Library Donations

April 1995 - May 06	\$2,876.52
June 2006 – June 2012	3,310.00

Birth Books Sold (63)	\$2,055.00
Printing Cost (200)	-2,049.13
Postage	-118.69
Sales Tax Paid	-110.95
Advertising (1)	<u>-30.00</u>
Profit	\$ -253.77

Death Books Sold (145)	\$3,404.72
Printing Cost (300)	-1,593.15
Consignment Fees	-425.00
Postage	-156.99
Sales Tax Paid	-79.25
Advertising	<u>-237.45</u>
Profit	\$ 912.88

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Touraine, Treasurer



VETERANS DAY

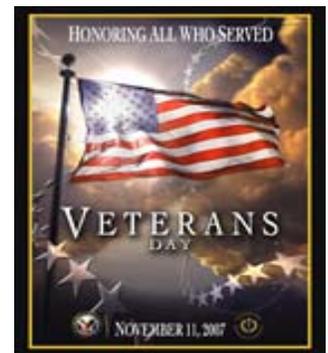
In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

~John McCrae, 1915



During World War I, John McCrae was tending the wounded and dying in the trenches at the Second Battle of Ypres in the Flanders area of Belgium as the Canadians held their ground against chlorine gas attacks.

When a close friend was killed and buried in a quick grave marked with a plain wooden cross, John McCrae wrote "In Flanders Fields."

First published in "Punch" magazine in 1915, the poem "In Flanders Fields" has become an abiding symbol of remembrance worldwide.



Fireworks at the Denton County Courthouse celebrating the end of World War I

This photograph was taken after the announcement of the end of World War I



TXGS CONFERENCE 2012

Last week, several society members attended this year's conference in Fort Worth. Several members set up and staffed a DCGS table in the exhibit area on Thursday and Friday, and exchanged information and ideas with other Texas societies.

Thursday's presentations focused on society marketing, the use of social media, putting information resources online, and society leadership. The partner society sharing session over lunch was thought provoking and informative. A simultaneous program for librarians was similarly rich in detail and beneficial for participants.

Friday's presentations covered ethnic genealogy, technology, methodology, and resources. All of the session we attended were excellent, and even experienced researchers learned something new.

The Dallas Genealogy Society ran a Getting Started track on both days that was well attended, and FamilySearch held a free, half-day workshop Thursday and Friday. In addition to the many

society and specialty vendors present, Maia's Books and Arphax Publishing had large displays of genealogy resources available for sale.

The featured speaker, Curt Witcher of the Allen County Public Library (Fort Wayne, IN), gave spirited presentations on all three days, including four challenging presentations on Saturday. His most inspiring presentation was at the Friday night awards banquet, when he stood in for an ill Lloyd Bockstruck. He related a number of stories that had been revealed to him over the years that could have been lost forever if not written down, and discussed how the age of electronic media has destroyed the collateral recording of stories in written letters and other correspondence. He exhorted the audience to begin writing, and to write regularly about their family history. He charged us to write a 1,000 word essay about each of our primary ancestors, relating their stories for future generations before they are lost from memory. He fears that in an age of email and text messaging, all will be lost.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Library Databases for Genealogy Research

Become familiar with the resources available through the Denton Public Library for genealogy research.

Learn basic searching techniques to find ancestors and review the contents of genealogy databases.

Call 349-9752 to register.

Sat. 12/01 Emily Fowler Library 3-5 pm

Beginning Genealogy

Learn the basics of genealogy research in this introductory class. Topics include: gathering family

information, using genealogical forms, accessing vital records, locating census records, and using the resources available in the Emily Fowler Special Collections.

349.8752 to register.

Saturday 01/26 Emily Fowler Library 3 pm

Display Case

The new display for November will be: **Military Records: Document Your Family's Service.**

This display is in honor of Veterans Day.

2012-2014 OFFICERS

President—Wanda Samek

Vice-President—Dayonne Work

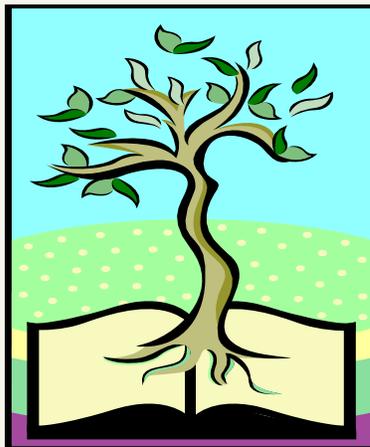
Secretary—Susan McIntosh

Treasurer—Linda Touraine

Librarian—Kathy Strauss

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Historical Research—Danny Puckett



**NEXT MEETING OF THE
DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
JANUARY 10, 2013
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201