

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

APRIL MEETING THURSDAY APRIL 11, 2013



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: "Using Family Search"

SPEAKER: Tresa Tatyrek

Tresa Tatyrek is a professional genealogist and she will be presenting the latest information on the state of that genealogical goldmine, Family Search.

Tresa was born in Wichita Falls, Texas and lived there until she was 14, when she moved to Dallas with her parents and sisters. She is considered an expert in the use of Family Tree Maker, and has even written a how-to book on the subject.

Tresa loves traveling to libraries, court houses, cemeteries, family

reunion, and archive to do her own research. A few years ago, she started taking on client research and gets as excited finding their ancestors as she does her own. Her calendar is packed with client work, travel, teaching and lecturing.

Tresa is a Past President of the Dallas Genealogical Society, a member of the Grapevine Namedroppers, a member of the Cross Timbers Chapter of DAR, and the John Cavet Chapter of USD1812. Tresa is also a member of the Denton County Historical Commission. We welcome Tresa to the Denton County Genealogical Society, and look forward to her presentation.

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ROOTSTECH 2013

RootsTech is a cutting-edge, content-rich conference. It has broad appeal, and with technology, it will be available to view worldwide in 2014. I was really impressed with the conference infrastructure (location, hotels, ease of locating classes, etc.). There was the opportunity to learn new things in the field, and see what will be coming electronically and digitally in the years to come.

Chris and Kathy Strauss travelled to Salt Lake City for the conference. They arrived two days before the conference

began to take advantage of the opportunity to do research at the Family History Library.

Each of them attended different classes, Chris concentrating on the technological ones, while Kathy attended those classes geared toward learning new things to teach to genealogy patrons.

Overall, this conference is well worth the time to attend. It was also available through live-streaming. The class syllabus and handouts are available on the RootsTech website, www.rootstech.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear DCGS Friend,

There are a couple of things happening in our world that I would like to share with you.

First, there is reason for concern on the legislative front. On the last day for filing bills in the Texas Legislature, Representative Zerwas filed House Bill 3252. If enacted, H.B. 3252 would close Texas birth records for 125 years and close death records for 50 years. Presently, those records are closed for 75 and 25 years respectively. This bill is, of course, worrisome to genealogists and family historians.

Fortunately, the Texas State Genealogical Society monitors proposed legislation and has been working diligently to modify or defeat H.B. 3252. Our legislative folks have been collecting arguments and experiences demonstrating why this action would not be in the best interest of the public, would be a deterrent to legitimate researchers, and would not accomplish the purpose for which it was created. That purpose, of course, was for greater protection of citizens.

A second bill, Senate Bill 811, was filed by Senator Ellis. S.B. 811 would establish dates by which records that are currently closed would be opened. The board of the Texas State Genealogical Society voted in March to support this bill.

Second, plans for the Annual Conference of the Texas State Genealogical Society are being finalized. It promises to be an outstanding event featuring Tom Jones as the guest lecturer. Mr. Jones is well-known nationally as an extraordinary lecturer, writer, and researcher. The Conference will take place at Round Rock, Texas, on October 1 to November 2, 2013. There will be breakout sessions, exhibits, and many exciting opportunities for genealogists. Check the TSGS website for more information at <http://www.txsgs.org/>.

Perhaps the most important reminder is the one about our April meeting. It will be highly informative and helpful to family researchers. Tresa Tatyrek will be the speaker, and she will help us learn to use "Family Search" more effectively. The date is Thursday, April 11, 2013. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. preceded by a networking period at 6:30. Be sure to save the date.



Wanda Samek, President

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Using Newspapers for Genealogical Research

Newspapers are a treasure trove of genealogical information. The obvious gleanings are obituaries, but you can find your ancestors in advertisements, major stories, and even the Letters to Santa. Learn where to find the papers of the towns where your ancestors lived and information to enhance your family story.

349.8752 to register.

Saturday 4/20 Emily Fowler Library 3 pm

"They Came in Ships": Researching Passenger Records

Genealogists have always been interested in identifying their ancestors who immigrated to America. In this class, we will explore the records available from various time periods to help the researcher identify ports of entry and ship passenger records.

349.8752 to register.

Saturday 5/25 Emily Fowler Library 3 pm

MARCH 2013 MINUTES

The March 2013 meeting of the Denton County Genealogical Society was called to order by Vice President Dayonne Work. There were 22 members in attendance with one new member – June Brown.

There being no corrections, the minutes of the February 2013, meeting were approved as presented in the Chapter's online newsletter. The Treasurer's report, also available in the newsletter, was filed for record. Linda will begin collecting dues for next year which are \$15 per person and \$25 per family.

There were no committee reports.

There was no new business.

Mark Brownmiller announced there were six visitors: Charles Forshaw, Carole Richards, Tom Richards, Susan Fagen, Susan Waggoner, and Jimmy Waggoner.

The speaker, Rusty Brenner, was delayed so members shared information about various topics related to genealogy until he arrived.

Dayonne Work introduced Rusty Brenner of Texas Cemetery Restoration, LLC. He explained the painstaking process of restoring and documenting cemeteries.

The meeting was adjourned by Dayonne Work.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance March 1, 2013 **\$1,758.53**

No Deposits

Disbursements

NGS dues \$50.00

Total \$50.00

Balance March 31, 2013 **\$1,708.53**

2012-2013 Paid Members – 72

2013-2014 Paid Members – 5

2014-2015 Paid Members – 1

Library Donations

April 1995 – May 2006 \$2,876.52

June 2006 – June 2012 \$3,310.00

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Touraine, Treasurer



A genealogist is one who chases his own tale!

*If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton,
you may as well make it dance.*

~ George Bernard Shaw ~

Epidemics in U.S. - 1657 - 1918

From the South Bend, IN Area Genealogical Society, April 1996.

Epidemics have always had a great influence on people -- and thus influencing, as well, the genealogists trying to trace them. Many cases of people disappearing from records can be traced to dying during an epidemic or moving away from the affected area. Some of the major epidemics in the United States are listed below:

1657 Boston: Measles
 1687 Boston: Measles
 1690 New York: Yellow Fever
 1713 Boston: Measles
 1729 Boston: Measles
 1732-33 Worldwide: Influenza
 1738 South Carolina: Smallpox
 1739-40 Boston: Measles
 1747 Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania & South Carolina: Measles
 1759 North America (areas inhabited by white people): Measles
 1761-61 North America & West Indies: Influenza
 1772 North America: Measles
 1775 North America (especially hard in New England): Epidemic (unknown)
 1775-76 Worldwide: Influenza
 1781-82 Worldwide: Influenza (one of worst flu epidemics)
 1788 Philadelphia & New York: Measles
 1793 Vermont: Influenza and a "putrid fever"
 1793 Virginia: Influenza (kills 500 people in 5 counties in 4 weeks)
 1793 Philadelphia: Yellow fever (one of worst)
 1783 Delaware (Dover): "extremely fatal" bilious disorder
 1793 Pennsylvania (Harrisburg & Middletown): many unexplained deaths
 1794 Philadelphia: Yellow fever
 1796-97 Philadelphia: Yellow Fever
 1798 Philadelphia: Yellow Fever (one of worst)
 1803 New York: Yellow Fever
 1820-23 Nationwide: "fever" (starts on Schuylkill River, PA & spreads

1831-32 Nationwide: Asiatic Cholera (brought by English emigrants)
 1832 New York & other major cities: Cholera
 1837 Philadelphia: Typhus
 1841 Nationwide: Yellow Fever (especially severe in South)
 1847 New Orleans: Yellow Fever
 1847-48 Worldwide: Influenza
 1848-49 North America: Cholera
 1850 Nationwide: Yellow Fever
 1850-51 North America: Influenza
 1852 Nationwide: Yellow Fever (New Orleans: 8,000 die in summer)
 1855 Nationwide (many parts): Yellow Fever
 1857-59 Worldwide: Influenza (one of disease's greatest epidemics)
 1860-61 Pennsylvania: Smallpox
 1865-73 Philadelphia, New York, Boston, New Orleans, Baltimore, Memphis, and Washington D.C.: a series of recurring epidemics of Smallpox, Cholera, Typhus, Typhoid, Scarlet Fever and Yellow Fever
 1873-75 North America & Europe: Influenza
 1878 New Orleans: Yellow Fever (last great epidemic of disease)
 1885 Plymouth, PA: Typhoid
 1886: Jacksonville, FL: Yellow Fever
 1918 Worldwide: Influenza (high point year)
 More people hospitalized in World War I from Influenza than wounds.
 US Army training camps became death camps -with 80 percent death rate in some camps.

Source: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gapolk2/genealogy.html#epidemics>

WISH LIST

I want ancestors with names like Rudimentary Montagnard or Melchizenick von Steubenhoffmannschild or Spetzatz Giafortoni, not William Brown or John Hunter or Mary Abbott.

I want ancestors who could read and write, had their children baptised in recognised houses of worship, went to school, purchased land, left detailed wills (naming a huge extended family as legatees), had their photographs taken once a year - subsequently putting said pictures in elaborate isinglass frames annotated with calligraphic inscriptions, and carved valuable and informative inscriptions in their headstones.

I want relatives who managed to bury their ancestors in established, still-extant (and indexed) cemeteries. I want family members who wrote memoirs, who enlisted in the military as officers and who served in strategically important (and well-documented) skirmishes.

I want relatives who served as councilmen, schoolteachers, county clerks and town historians. I want relatives who "religiously" wrote in the family Bible, journalising every little event and detailing the familial relationship of every visitor.

In the case of immigrant ancestors, I want them to have arrived only in those years wherein passenger lists were indexed by the National Archives, and I want them to have applied for citizenship, and to have done so only in those jurisdictions which have since

established indices.

I want relatives who were patriotic and clubby, who joined every patrimonial society they could find, who kept diaries, and listed all their addresses, who had paintings made of their houses, and who dated every piece of paper they touched. I want ancestors who were wealthy enough to afford, and to keep for generations, the family homestead, and who left all the aforementioned pictures and diaries and journals intact in the library.

But most of all: I want relatives I can FIND!!!!

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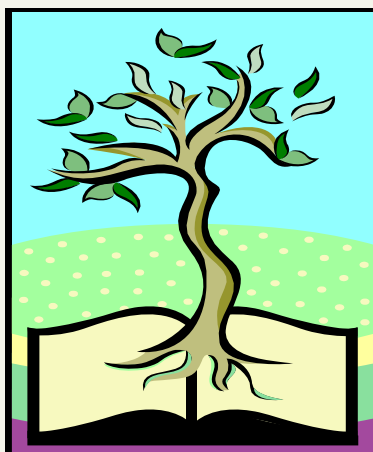
Ms. Brown's "I Want" article was originally posted in 1994 to the National Genealogical Conference, FIDO bulletin board forum.

Source: [http://members.home.nl/sjouwke/genealogie/jokes.htm#WISH LIST](http://members.home.nl/sjouwke/genealogie/jokes.htm#WISH_LIST)



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
 MAY 9, 2013
 Emily Fowler Central
 Library
 502 Oakland St.
 Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201