

# 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

## NOV MEETING THURSDAY NOV 13, 2014



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](http://www.genealogydentontexas.org)

### Program: “Internet Aids to Family History Research”

### Speaker: Walta Evans

Walta Edwina Lefler Evans is a retired elementary teacher/school librarian. Her first job as a librarian was with the Van Zandt County Library in Canton, Texas, as the professional librarian on the staff in charge of children’s programming and genealogy. She has worked in schools in Texas and in Arizona where she worked on both the Navajo and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Reservations and in the public schools in Higley. She has taught English classes for Navajo Community College now Dine College. Walta spent 49 years as an educator.

Her interest in family history and genealogy began in her teens when she went to her first family reunion

with her father’s family in Michigan. Since then, she has traveled to many locations: libraries, courthouses, Archives of Ontario in Canada, and cemeteries, doing the leg work to gather her family history and that of her husband and friends. As a librarian, she has acquired skills in technology which have helped her contact distant relatives in the United States, Canada, England, Australia and France to add much information to her family tree and is currently working in the Archives of France online. Skills as a librarian and elementary teacher have helped her to do research and to read all kinds of handwriting.

Through her research, she was able to fulfill her mother’s life-long ambition to gain membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution. She continues her search for her family and helps other by telephone and at the Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Denton.

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**REMEMBER: NO MEETING IN DECEMBER  
SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!!**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, we're into the third month of our 2014-2015 year and going strong.

I don't have the numbers, but once again we filled the conference room from front to rear again.

The lock-in at the North Branch Library on October 17th was very well attended and should be considered a great success. Our thanks go to Kathy, Chuck, Laura and everyone else involved in making it possible to have it at the North Branch Library due to construction at the Emily Fowler Library.

Our speaker for the October meeting, John Wylie, changed his presentation a bit in order to prepare for, and practice, his first presentation of "Four Steps to Your Digital Afterlife" which he will be presenting next February at RootsTech.

I'm pretty sure we'll make an attempt to bring him back to give his originally planned presentation of: "Managing Those Pesky Files on Your Hard Drive: And Other Places They May Live" sometime in the near future.

Our speaker for the November meeting is one of our own members: Walta Evans.

Her presentation will be: Internet Aids to Family History Research: Tools, Websites, Wikis, Blogs, Etc.

We all recognize how much help the internet has been for the genealogical world (particularly in the last few years), and the extensive information that is now available to us. I'm sure Walta will give us valuable insight into using many of these sources available.

In the last few weeks I've talked with a few couples who have an interest in researching their roots. Of course, I've told them about DCGS and invited them to attend one of our meetings. I hope those of you that have relatives, friends, or acquaintances interested in their family genealogy are inviting them to come and visit our meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you at our meeting next week.

Terry Brantley

President, Denton County Genealogical Society

### Get the 2014-15 Texas Almanac eBook — FREE!

The Texas State Historical Association is making a valuable reference book available free of charge to everyone. It is a useful guide for anyone researching Texas ancestry as well as for many other purposes as well. It has long been considered "the go-to guide for all things Texas."

The Texas Almanac is a 752-page guide to everything you ever wanted to know about the Lone Star State. It is packed with hundreds of articles, color photographs, maps, and data tables, making it the premier reference guide for everything Texan. This digital version is optimized for your iPad, Kindle, or eReader device.

The 2014-15 edition features these exclusive updates:

- An article on Texas art and artists written by prominent collector J.P. Bryan
- Sketches of eight historic ranches of Texas by Texana writer Mike Cox
- Comprehensive lists of Texas high school, college, and professional sports championships
- And much more!

You can get your free copy now at <http://www.freetexasalmanac.com/tsha-almanac-download>.

## WikiTree Makes Finding Relationships with DNA Matches Easier

The following announcement was written by the folks at WikiTree.com:

6 November 2014: Today [WikiTree.com](#) is announcing two important features for genealogists who have taken DNA tests. These features make WikiTree's [Relationship Finder](#) a uniquely powerful tool for genealogists who have taken 23andMe, AncestryDNA, and FTDNA Family Finder tests. "One of the biggest challenges facing genetic genealogists," according to Dr. Blaine Bettinger, author of the long-running blog *The Genetic Genealogist*, "is finding the elusive common ancestor. Finding genetic matches is easy, but finding the common ancestor from whom we inherited a segment DNA is very hard. WikiTree's new Relationship Finder is a great tool for identifying the ancestors that two or more people share in common."

### All Common Ancestors

Genealogical relationship finders are generally designed to find the first common ancestor between two people. Genetic genealogists need to know about all the common ancestors they share with a match. Everyone's family tree intertwines in multiple ways. The first shared ancestor may not be the reason for a shared segment of autosomal DNA.

WikiTree's Relationship Finder now enables you to easily browse all your common ancestors.

### Filtering for Multiple Matches

When a genealogist shares a segment of autosomal DNA with two or more other people who also match each other on that segment, it's a big clue in discovering which ancestor it came from.

WikiTree's Relationship Finder now enables you to filter

the common ancestors shared by two people to only display common ancestors who are also shared by a third, fourth, or fifth person.

### The Universal Family Tree

These Relationship Finder features are possible because WikiTree members are collaborating on a single tree for the entire human family.

"The genetic genealogy community absolutely must have a universal family tree," says leading genetic genealogist Dr. Tim Janzen. "With smaller unlinked trees it's frequently impossible to see all of the true genealogical connections with the people who share autosomal DNA with us. We are finally getting to the point where this vision is becoming a reality at WikiTree."

### About WikiTree

[WikiTree: The Free Family Tree](#) has been growing since 2008. Community members privately collaborate with close family members on modern family history and publicly collaborate with other genealogists on deep ancestry. Since all the private and public profiles are connected on the same system this process is helping to grow a single, worldwide family tree that will eventually connect us all and thereby make it free and easy for anyone to discover their roots. See <http://www.WikiTree.com>.



Source: *Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter*

## Research at DAR Library Now Free to the Public

The DAR Library, one of the country's premier genealogical research facilities, is now FREE to all researchers. In October, the entrance fee for use of the Washington, D.C. family history library was eliminated as part of ongoing efforts to make the extensive DAR genealogical resources more accessible to the public.

"We are so pleased to be able to now offer the DAR Library resources free of charge," says Eric Grundset, Director of the DAR Library. "We invite and encourage anyone who may have been deterred in the past by the usage fee to come visit and explore our vast holdings. You never know what you may be able to discover about your family at the DAR Library."

From novices to professionals, the DAR Library offers a wealth of

unique materials for researchers of all levels. Since its founding in 1896, the DAR Library has grown into a specialized collection of American genealogical and historical manuscripts and publications, as well as powerful on-site databases. The DAR Library collection contains more than 225,000 books, 10,000 research files, thousands of manuscript items, and special collections of African American, Native American, and women's history, genealogy and culture. Nearly 40,000 family histories and genealogies comprise a major portion of the book collection, many of which are unique or available in only a few libraries in the country.

Further details may be found at: <http://www.dar.org/national-society/media-center/news-releases/research-dar-library-now-free-public>.

## OCT 2014 MINUTES

President Terry Brantley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Terry Brantley welcomed 5 visitors and 2 new members. Visitors were Barbara Bixley, Lenora Reaves, Val Tomason, Susan Spencer and Martha Parnell. New members are Joan Vranesa and Nancy McLoughlin.

The Minutes were motioned with additions or changes and approved. Previous numbers for the September meeting to be changed to 8 new members and 61 visitors, attendance of 51. The Minutes and the Treasurer’s report, available in the newsletter, were filed for record.

Kathi Coatney will be out for the November session. Joyce Poole has volunteered to help with the setup for the November meeting.

Terry Brantley advised the Denton Genealogical Handbook is in the process of being prepared.

Kathi Coatney advised the schedule for the “Lock In” on October 17, 2014. The “Lock In” will be held at the North Branch Library located at 3020 N. Locust. A baked potato bar will be served for dinner at 5:00 pm. There will be access to Early webinars in the Forge from noon to 4:40 pm. The Presentation schedule is:  
Fundamentals for Beginning Genealogy Research

6:00 pm – 7:20 pm  
Five Civilized Tribes Indian Research  
7:30 pm – 8:20 pm  
Think Like a Historian to Expand Your Research  
8:30 pm – 9:20 pm  
DNA – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly  
9:30pm – 10:30 pm  
Questions will be answered after the meetings.

Terry Brantley introduced the evening’s speaker, John Wiley, presenting 4 Steps to Your Digital Afterlife. John has been a professional Genealogist for 22 years. The presentation consisted of digital programs that are being used today to save family history information. Several of these will be going away in our future. John shared several sites and programs that would be helpful in preserving you family information for the future and the importance of assigning a Digital Heir to keep and share the family history after we are gone.

The next meeting will be on November 13, 2014 and the program will be presented by Walta Evans on Internet Resources.

Terry Brantley adjourned the meeting at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbie Briley  
Secretary



## TREASURER’S REPORT

<b>Balance Oct. 1, 2014</b>	<b>\$2,292.61</b>
<b>Deposits:</b>	
Dues	\$150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>Balance Oct. 31, 2014</b>	<b>\$2,442.61</b>

Library Donations	
April 1995 – May 2006	\$2,876.52
June 2006 – June 2012	\$3,310.00
July 2012 – to date	\$512.45

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Touraine, Treasurer



## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

### Winter Programs

#### Obituaries: A Goldmine of Genealogical Treasure

Learn how to study obituaries to find valuable clues to your ancestor's lives. Find out what is included in an obituary, and practice writing one. Registration required.

Sat. 11/22 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

#### Census Research

Census records are some of the most important tools for genealogy research, but they can be confusing. This class will help you understand the important information that can be found in them. Registration required.

Sat 12/13 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

#### They Came in Ships: Researching Passenger Records

Genealogists have always been interested in identifying their ancestors who immigrated to America. We will explore the records available from various time periods to help the researcher identify ports of entry and ships' passenger records. Registration required.

Sat 1/10 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

#### Researching Texas Pioneers

Learn about the early colonies and where to find information about your Texas ancestors and their lives in Texas. Registration required.

Sat 2/7 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

## NEW ADDITION TO STRAUSS FAMILY TREE

Gretchen Autumn Strauss was born on October 20, 2014 in Columbus, Ohio at the Ohio State University Hospital. She weighed 6 lb. 5 oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long. Her parents are Matthew and Cory Strauss. First-time grandparents, Chris and Kathy Strauss are thrilled.

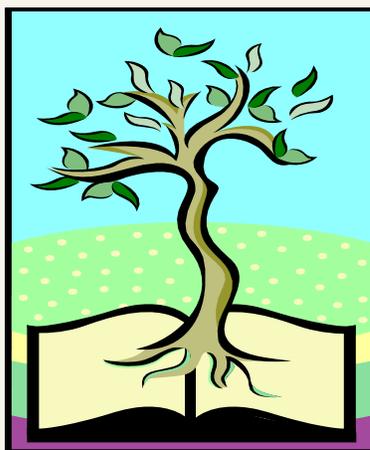
Kathy made the trip to Columbus soon after her birth, and stayed two weeks to bond with Gretchen and help the new parents.

Here is a picture of Kathy upon first meeting Gretchen in the hospital.



### 2014-2016 OFFICERS

President—Terry Brantley  
 Vice-President—Dayonne Work  
 Secretary—Bobbie Briley  
 Treasurer—Linda Touraine  
 Librarian—Kathy Strauss  
 Webmaster—Chris Strauss  
 Membership—Linda Johnson



**NEXT MEETING OF THE  
 DENTON COUNTY  
 GENEALOGICAL  
 SOCIETY WILL BE ON  
 JAN 8, 2015  
 Emily Fowler Central  
 Library  
 502 Oakland St.  
 Denton**

DENTON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street  
Denton, TX 76201