

# 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 9, 2015



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: “When You Hit a Snag”

### Speaker: Marilyn Simms

Marilyn’s program will show us what to do to prevent that snag from becoming the brick wall we have all come up against. Marilyn Weston Sims was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She was raised there, went on to California and finally ended up in Texas. She vividly remembers sitting at the feet of her grandparents listening to them talk about the past as they wowed her with groups of her fascinating ancestors. Her Smith family line led to the Trail Of Tears in Missouri and Arkansas, the Westons led a wagon train from Tennessee to Missouri, and the Rainey family came into Oklahoma in a Covered Wagon during the exciting

land rush. But what finally got her interest peaked to research her family's history was when she came to college in Denton in 1959. She learned that her great grandfather, Henry Moses Spalding, came to Denton and established a bank here in the 1880's. She discovered that Edward Lindsay Spalding, her beloved grandfather who had shared so much of the past with her was born right here in Denton in 1891. She has been avidly researching and collecting since that time. After graduating high school in Arlington, Texas in 1959, Marilyn came to college in Denton. With her Master's Degree completed at UNT, she went on to the University of Missouri at Columbia to further her studies. Finally she returned to Denton and taught for 33 years in the public schools, supervised student teachers for TWU and UNT until her retirement when she began enjoying her new title of Granny.

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### DON'T FORGET THE DENTON STAKE FAMILY HISTORY FAIR April 11, 2015

Denton Stake Center, 3000 Old North Road  
See Details at [www.dentontxfhc.com](http://www.dentontxfhc.com)

### LISA LOUISE COOK IS COMING TO THE DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY TO CONDUCT AN ALL-DAY GENEALOGY SEMINAR!

(See details on page 5.)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you read this, we will be past the Easter season. I hope you and your family were able to gather together in fun and fellowship. And, hopefully there were conversations that took you back in time and gave you information to help you in your genealogy efforts.

At our March meeting, we had 41 in attendance of which 4 were guests.

The speaker for our April meeting is our very own Marilyn (Granny) Simms. She will be speaking on "When You Hit A Snag." More information about her presentation is given in the main body of the newsletter.

We are now less than two weeks away from the Denton Texas Stake Family History Research Fair on Saturday, April 11th, at the Denton LDS Stake Center at 3000-3098 Old North Rd, Denton, TX 76209. Again, I am planning on setting up a table

for DCGS at the event, so please let me know if you are interested in, and would be willing to help me that day.

Your DCGS board of officers will be meeting in the next few weeks to discuss business for the next year. If you have any suggestions for improving our meetings, please talk to, or, email any of the board members with your ideas.

Your email will be confidential and given only to board members.

Looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming meeting..

Terry Brantley

President, Denton County Genealogical Society

## TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS, IS DIGITIZING OLD COURT RECORDS FOR PRESERVATION

Tarrant County, Texas, court files are continuing a years-long effort to make electronic copies of old case files and to destroy most of the paper counterparts. However, a few documents of "famous files" are being digitized but the paper is then preserved.

Tarrant County includes the courts for Dallas and nearby suburbs. Over the years, many famous cases have been aired in the courts of the county, including cases involving the late, famed attorney Melvin Belli who was prevented from representing Jack Ruby, who shot Lee Harvey Oswald. Dozens of other famous files are being preserved, including the Cullen Davis trials in which he was prosecuted for the slaying of his estranged wife's daughter and in a murder-for-hire scheme in the 1970s; and the Koslow trial, where Kristi Ann Koslow and friends Brian Dennis Salter and Jeffrey Dillingham were convicted of killing her

step-mother, Caren, and injuring her father, Jack. An article in the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* says that the "files are put in plastic bags to protect them from potential water damage if the sprinkler system goes off and are stored on shelves or in boxes for safekeeping." I hope those are archival quality polyethylene bags, not something purchased at a local grocery store! The article doesn't provide that level of detail.

You can read about Tarrant County's paper and digital preservation efforts by Anna M. Tinsley in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram at <http://www.star-telegram.com/news/local/community/fort-worth/article16098065.html>.

(Source: *Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter*)

## Ode to Lou Szucs: Ancestry's Employee Number One Retires

Posted by [Kristie Wells](#) on March 31, 2015 in [Company News](#), [In The Community](#)

We knew this day would come. In fact, we even knew the date it would happen. But this morning it finally sunk in ... Loretto Dennis ("Lou") Szucs is officially retiring today. I am filled with mixed emotions as while I am thrilled for her to be able to spend more time with her family, her wise counsel and incredible spirit will be missed.

Lou 'officially' joined Ancestry in 1992 as employee number one, and to say she has been through a few changes would be a massive understatement. She has also worn many hats over the last 23 years, but none seem better suited than that of Vice President of Community Relations. As a widely-respected and beloved member of the genealogy community, Lou has represented Ancestry at conferences and inside genealogical societies, including holding a seat on several boards. She is a trusted voice in the community and a wonderful community advocate.

There have been several memorable moments with Lou, but I think the first time I met her was my favorite. I had been with the company for just over two months and decided to attend the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference (FGS) taking place in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Upon arrival, I went straight to the Ancestry booth on the show floor. Everyone was pretty busy, so I stood by the side, waiting for a break so I could introduce myself. Lou walked up to me and asked if I needed help. I explained who I was, she immediately hugged me and welcomed me to the show. She then proceeded to introduce me to everyone else there. That is Lou. Always there to help you, connect you or guide you.

After the introductions, I looked closely at Lou's badge and was floored by all the ribbons she had. If ever there was a picture that could show just how involved in the genealogy community she is, this is it (knowing this is only a small subset of the programs she is involved in).



Lou Szucs conference badge. The collection of ribbons is called a 'beard' in the genealogy community.

Lou is an accomplished author – penning several books, including [The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy](#), a genealogical staple found in the home of most serious genealogists. She is invited to speak at conferences and societies and her tutorials are always entertaining and informative as she is a natural born storyteller. She has been a guiding light to 1000s of people, helping them walk down the right genealogical path. Lou believes her friends are your friends and she is willing to connect you to anyone in her contact list. Her passion for family history is infectious and she has inspired many of us to dig deep into our own stories. To top it all off, Lou is incredibly sweet. Sugary, but in a tasty, just enough to keep you wired way, not the generating cavities kind of way.

Lou's mentorship and guidance is something cherished by many of us here. Her contribution to the field cannot be overstated, and we have been proud and grateful for her representation of Ancestry.

Please join us in thanking Lou for her decades of service to Ancestry and in wishing her all the best in her retirement. All I ask is even with all her newly found 'free time' that she leaves some Kelly's for her daughter Juliana to find in their family tree.

See more at: <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2015/03/31/ancestrys-employee-number-one-retires-ode-to-lou-szucs/#sthash.ZjcFdLCT.dpuf>



**Lou Szucs,**

Photo credit: Trish Szucs St

### MARCH 2015 MINUTES

President Terry Brantley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and four visitors were welcomed and introduced by Linda Johnson. Tonight's attendance was 41.

Joyce Poole asked that the Minutes be approved as published in the News Letter and Carole Brantley seconded the motion. Marilyn Simms made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be approved as published and Kathy Strauss seconded the motion. Both motions were passed unanimously.

Terry reminded the group of the upcoming Family History Fair on April 11, 2015 and asked for volunteers to help with the DCGS Table that would be set up for the event. Registration information was discussed and forms were available.

Dayonne Work had extra handouts from the February Meeting about Ohio Research. She also had some extra disks from our meeting on Pennsylvania Research for anyone interested.

Linda Johnson reminded members to give her any contact information changes.

Kathy Strauss gave a report about the Library. On Saturday, April 4 at 3:00 in our regular meeting room at the library, there will be a class for beginning family searchers or anyone needing a

refresher course. Registration can be handled at the desk or on the web site. On May 2, there will be an all-day seminar with Lisa Louise Cook, a nationally known speaker. Lunch will be served. The registration is somewhat limited; Kathy is asking that people sign up early. These two programs were paid for by a library benefactor.

Kathy also talked about the Denton Public Library's addition of a new electronic resource available to library customers. She encouraged us to visit the library and browse through all the map information on **HistoryGeo.com**

Terry Brantley introduced Aaron Holt, our speaker for the evening. Mr. Holt, a native Texan, is an archives technician at NARA in Ft. Worth. His program was on wars of the United States and research capabilities. He carefully answered all our questions and his comfortable delivery made the presentation easy to follow. It was certainly helpful for those needing any kind of military information. Terry Brantley adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm. Respectively submitted,

Marilyn Simms,  
in the absence of Bobbie Briley, Secretary



### TREASURER'S REPORT

**Balance Feb. 28, 2015** **\$2,324.58**

**Deposits:**

None

**Total** \$00.00

**Disbursements:**

Printing, DCGS Brochure \$150.00  
National Genealogical Society dues 50.00

**Total:** **\$200.00**

**Balance March 31, 2015** **\$2,124.58**

2014-2015 Paid Members – 85

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

### Spring Programs

#### 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 Department. Call (940) 349-8752 to register.

**Sat 4/4 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.**

#### Genealogy Seminar

The Denton Public Library will host a day-long seminar with Lisa Louise Cooke, nationally known genealogy speaker and owner of the GenealogyGems podcast. Lunch provided. Call (940) 349-8752 to register.

**Sat 5/2 Emily Fowler 9 a.m.- 6 p.m.**

### GENEALOGY SEMINAR

On May 2, the Denton Public Library will host an all-day genealogy seminar with guest speaker Lisa Louise Cooke.

#### Register for the seminar at:

**[www.dentonlibrary.com](http://www.dentonlibrary.com) (Register for classes) or call 940-349-8752. Indicate your choice for lunch when registering. There is a size limit for the seminar, so register early.**

Here are the details for the lectures and schedule:

9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.—Registration and Welcome

9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.—Future Technology and Genealogy

10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.—Break (Lisa's books for sale and snacks available)

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.—5 Ways to Enhance Your Genealogy Research with Old Maps

12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.—Lunch

1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.—How to Reopen and Work on a Genealogical Cold Case File

2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.—Break (Lisa's books for sale and snacks available)

3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.—How to Save Your Research from Destruction and Ensure its Future Survival

A box lunch from Lenny's Sub Shop will be served. It includes a sandwich, chips, and cookie. Please indicate your choice from the following when registering.

1. Mile High Turkey-Provolone Cheese, Turkey, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle
2. The Club-Provolone Cheese, Ham Turkey, Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle
3. Chicken Salad-Chicken Salad, Provolone Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle
4. Veggie-Provolone Cheese, Swiss Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle

#### 2014-2016 OFFICERS

President—Terry Brantley

Vice-President—Dayonne Work

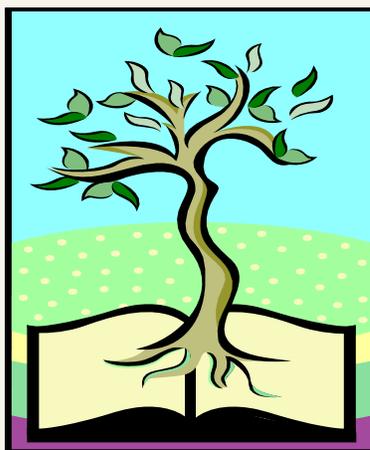
Secretary—Bobbie Briley

Treasurer—Linda Touraine

Librarian—Kathy Strauss

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Membership—Linda Johnson



**NEXT MEETING OF THE  
DENTON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY WILL BE ON  
May 14, 2015  
Emily Fowler Central  
Library  
502 Oakland St.  
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street  
Denton, TX 76201