

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

MAY MEETING THURSDAY MAY 14, 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

Program: “Genealogical Experiences and Why Genealogy is Important”

Speaker: Dan Spigel

Dan Spigel is the Director and Producer of the independent film “House of the Generals.” He is an experienced speaker who has appeared on national TV. His talk bridges all cultures. He speaks about the importance of family history.

As a director/Film Producer, he gives insight into the world of independent

film making, how photos and genealogy helped to make his movie, and how events today are reflective of the past.

He has linked his family’s history beginning with the Communist Revolution through WWII. He speaks to many civic groups, national conventions, genealogy and writers’ groups, war veterans, churches, and temples.

Autographed copies of the movie are available.

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IN MEMORIAM

The Denton County Genealogical society is saddened by the loss of two of its original members, Mary LaJean Sherrill and Mattie Frank Pierce. Both of these ladies served as President of the Denton County Genealogical Society. Their contributions to the genealogy community in Denton are beyond compare.

Mary La Jean Davis Sherrill was born in Denton to Floyd Eugene and Mary Alice Demoney Davis on May 8, 1928. She passed away on April 7, 2015. She worked tirelessly on projects for the Denton County Genealogical Society. Mary La Jean served as a compiler and editor of the city of Denton Death and Birth Records. She organized the abstraction, entered the data into the computer, and directed the publication She also

participated in the abstraction of the wills and recording of cemetery records.

Mattie Frank Adair Pierce was born on January 2, 1916 in Blum, Texas. She passed away on April 19, 2015. She married Wilford Pierce in 1936.

Mattie Frank volunteered at the Denton Public library for over twenty years. She produced the indexes of the obituaries, marriages, and births from the Denton Record Chronicle which appear on the library website. She was honored for her service during the 75th year of the Denton Public Library with the Emily award.

Both of these strong, committed ladies will be missed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our April meeting.....

I hope you all enjoyed the program by our own Marilyn Simms as much as I did. I received MANY great comments about her presentation following the meeting. It's obvious to me that we have a wealth of knowledge and experience here within our own DCGS group that needs to be given to our members. I would encourage any of you to speak to our Program Chair, Dayonne Work, if you think you have genealogical knowledge or an experience that would be a benefit to our fellow members.

We had 61 in attendance of which 14 were guests. Of the 14 guests, we had two that paid dues for the 2015-2016 year.

The Denton Texas Stake Family History Fair on Saturday, April 11th, was a resounding success and I certainly hope you took advantage of the many presentations offered there. My thanks to Bobbie Briley and Nita Thurman for helping me at the DCGS table.

The speaker for our May meeting will be Dan Spigel talking on "Genealogical Experiences and Why Genealogy is Important."

More information about his presentation is given in the main body of this newsletter.

Since this coming meeting on Thursday, May 14th is our last meeting for the year, I hope your experiences in our meetings the last several months has been beneficial to you in your genealogical endeavors.

I hope to see you all again at our first meeting for the 2015-2016 year on Thursday, September 10th.

Regards,

Terry Brantley

President, Denton County Genealogical Society

THANK YOU, MARILYN SIMMS

Marilyn – thank you so much for your educational program on Thursday night.

I listened and decided yesterday to look again for recently published information about my gr gr grandfather who died in Tennessee in 1845. I've had his bedside Will written about 4 weeks before he died at age 31 years leaving a young widow and two little children. But I always wondered where he died and why at 31.

You inspired me to look again and yesterday there on familysearch.org (ONLINE now and it wasn't last year) was a book about the Yancey-Medearis family that John Wesley McDoniel married into. In the Appendix on page B8 was a letter from David Yancey (1808-1885) to Brother Tolbert Fanning which was published in The

Christian Review, March 1846. You see, my gr gr grandfather, John Wesley McDoniel, was a minister in the early Christian Church in Middle Tennessee in the Stone-Campbell era. This article gave his date of birth, date and time of death, and stated he died in his own residence in Bedford County of pulmonary consumption (tuberculosis).

You are right – look again. Things change and I made a major discovery. J

Donna Spears



Genealogy's Often-Misspelled Words

You might want to save this article someplace. I have no idea why, but many of the words used in researching your family tree are difficult to spell. I constantly see spelling errors in messages posted on various genealogy web sites. When someone misspells a word, it feels like they are shouting, "I don't know what I'm doing!"

Here are a few words to memorize:

Genealogy – No, it is not spelled "geneology" nor is it spelled in the manner I often see: "geneaology." That last word looks to me as if someone thought, "Just throw all the letters in there and hope that something sticks." For some reason, many newspaper reporters and their editors do not know how to spell this word. Don't they have spell checkers?

Cemetery – The letter "a" does not appear anywhere in the word "cemetery." You can remember the spelling by an old saying, "We go to the cemetery with E's." (ease)

Ancestor – This simple word is often spelled "ancester," "ansester," or "anestor."

Ancestry – This word is often misspelled "ancestry." I often see errors when someone is referring to the ancestry.com online web site.

History – More than once I have seen someone refer to their "family histroy" or "family histry."

Descent – Perhaps not as common, but I have seen this spelled as "decent," which sounds almost the same.

Descendant – it often appears as descendent, descentent and many others.

Progenitor – I can never remember how to spell this word. I simply try to avoid it when I am writing!

Two other words often are confused: **immigrant** and **emigrant**. Another variation is immigration versus emigration. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary at <http://www.merriam-webster.com>, an emigrant is "a person who leaves a country or region to live in another one" while an immigrant is "a person who comes to a country to live there." To repeat, an **emigrant leaves** while an **immigrant arrives**.

The late Dick Pence was quite a storyteller, and once he told of an online genealogy article he wrote in which he poked fun at common spelling errors by genealogists. He deliberately misspelled **ten** different words in the article, including most of the words I listed above. In the text of the article, he never mentioned that the article was a tongue-in-cheek attempt at humor.

Dick soon received an email message from an irate lady who apparently didn't realize it was a deliberate attempt at humor. She scolded him for his spelling errors, writing, "Mr. Pence, you should be ashamed of yourself. I am an English teacher and I want to tell you that I found **seven** spelling errors in your article!"



(Source: *Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter*)

APRIL 2015 MINUTES

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

Terry welcomed 14 visitors; two of our visitors paid membership dues tonight. Tonight's attendance was 61.

The March Minutes were motioned for approval with no additions or changes. A motion was made that the Minutes and Treasurer's report be approved as published and seconded. Both motions were passed unanimously. Tonight's attendance was 61.

Announcements were made by Terry that the \$15.00 yearly membership fees are due for the 2015-2016 year. Terry also announced the Wise County Genealogy meeting would be the next Wednesday, April 15th. A Memorial is being put together for charter member, Mary LaJean Davis Sherrill who passed away on April 7, 2015. Mary was a charter member of the DCGS, presiding as President for 1989 – 1991 and 1992-1993. 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.

Terry reminded the group of the up-coming Family History Fair to be held at the Church of the Latter Day Saints Church on Old North Road on April 11, 2015. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the programs will begin at 8:00 a.m. Volunteers welcomed. Lunches will be available and will be chargeable. Roots Tech and other Speakers will be presenting

as well.

Terry Brantley introduced Marilyn Weston Simms, our speaker for the evening. Mrs. Simms is a member of the DCGS and presented the program "When You Hit a Snag".

Marilyn Weston Sims was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She was raised there, went on to California and finally ended up in Texas. She 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 I a Covered Wagon during the exciting land rush. When she came to Denton in 1959 and learned her grandfather, Henry Moses Spalding, came to Denton and established a bank in the 1880's. Mrs. Sims brought us a program full of information on researching names and spellings, as well as using heirlooms to help determine your lineage and time periods. She had such a marvelous sense of humor and had us laughing through the whole presentation. She gave us several handouts that were very helpful in following her presentation.

Terry Brantley adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbie Briley
Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT

(Covers April 1, 2015 – April 30, 2015)

Balance Mar. 31, 2015 **\$2,124.58**

Deposits:

Dues (2015-2016)	\$220.00
T-Shirt	15.00
DCGS Bag	15.00
Memorial Donation	<u>25.00</u>

Total **\$275.00**

Disbursements:

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Balance April 30, 2015 **\$2,399.58**

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

Genealogy Technology and Equipment

The Special Collections Department at Emily Fowler Central Library has been acquiring the latest technology to help you in your genealogy and local history research. This class will help you get acquainted with our new equipment by offering hands-on tutoring and a chance to get your feet wet. If you've ever been curious how this technology can help you, this is a great opportunity to learn. Registration required.

Sat 6/13 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

Genealogy Online Resources

As digitization projects sweep the nation, original documents for genealogical and historical research are

becoming available online in great numbers. Learn how to find and access these original documents, including family histories, vital records, and census information on the Internet and subscription databases. Registration required.

Sat 7/18 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

Migration Routes Across America

Join us for an in-depth discussion of the important immigrant migration routes across America and how they relate to genealogy research. Registration required.

Sat 8/15 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

US Geological Survey adds a New Online Map Viewer and It is a Good One!

The US Geological Survey has an online collection of more than 178,000 maps, dating back to 1880. They cover the entire country. Best of all, they're free to download. However, the digital images were not always of the highest quality and the search software for finding maps was confusing, at best. All that has now changed with the introduction of a new online map viewer.

Browsing and searching for maps is now much more intuitive. You can type or zoom in on a particular place, limit your search to maps of a particular scale or from a particular range of dates. You can download them in a variety of formats, from JPGs (fine for printing out a nice map to put on your wall), to KMZ files (to import into Google

Earth), to GeoTIFFs (for the power users who wants to import maps into GIS software).

You can learn more about the National Map Viewer and Download Platform at <http://viewer.nationalmap.gov/viewer>.

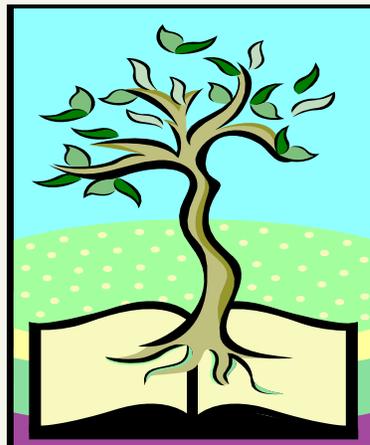
Further details may be found in an article by Greg Miller in *Wired* at <http://www.wired.com/2015/05/amazing-collection-historical-maps-just-got-easier-see>.



(Source: *Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter*)

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
 Sept 10, 2015
 Emily Fowler Central
 Library
 502 Oakland St.
 Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201