

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

FEBRUARY MEETING THURSDAY FEB 11, 2016



1896- Denton County Courthouse-

Program: Historical Epidemics and Genealogy Research Speaker: Kimberly Wells

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

Have you ever felt a chill when standing in a cemetery wondering why so many of the stones have the same death dates on them? Do you wonder what could have happened to devastate a community so quickly? One possible answer is that they were struck by an epidemic, which is the rapid spread of an infectious disease in a short period of time. Epidemics have always been part of US history; from smallpox in the colonies to the Influenza pandemic of WWI.

Kimberly Wells will discuss how these outbreaks effect your genealogy research. They could cause not just the cemetery to fill but for families to separate, as children were sent away or possibly a reason the whole family picked up and to leave the area. She will show how they impacted migration

patterns, vital records and had long term consequences for the survivors.

Kimberly received her BA in History and MLS from the University of North Texas. She spent 6 years working in the Genealogy and Local History department of the Fort Worth Public Library. In 2006, she accepted a position with the Denton Public Library, returning to the town she fell in love with while attending college. She is currently the manager of the Emily Fowler Central Library. Kimberly has served on the ALA Reading List Task Force and the TLA Lariat List. Both of these groups worked to recommend fiction that is a "joy to read" to the public.

The daughter of a retired Marine Corps colonel, Kimberly grew up traveling the US from military base to military base. During the 10+ moves of her childhood her parents always made sure to stop while on the road for two things; battlefields and baseball. She is a fan of genealogy research, museums (big and small) and the Texas Rangers.

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Speaker Change

Perry Abernethy, who was scheduled to give the February program on "Basic DNA and Family History," has graciously agreed to relinquish his spot to Kimberly Wells. Kimberly was ill last month and

was unable to speak. Kathy Strauss gave the program in January on "Uncommon Genealogy Sources."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow members:

As stated in Article IV of our bylaws, it is time to nominate and elect the officers for the upcoming two year term. We are required to appoint a nominating committee comprised of two officers from the executive board and three members from the membership at large.

Article IV can be found on pages 12 and 13 of the Membership Handbook.

If you are interested in being on the Nominating Committee, or would like to serve the Society as an officer, please notify me, or our Vice President/Program Chair Perry Abernethy. Please contact Perry at: desertyachter@gmail.com, or myself at terry.brantley@verizon.net. Our contact information is also given on page 12 of in your Members Handbook.

The members who will make up the Nominating Committee must be presented at the February meeting and voted on by the members.

The Nominating Committee will then present the nominees for the various offices at the regular meeting in April. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

This is your opportunity to give back to the Society and share your expertise in many ways to the other members.

As I remind you every month, be sure and read the rest of this newsletter for the latest information on upcoming genealogical events and check the Denton Public Library web site. Also, be sure and pick up the latest Classes & Events pamphlet published by the Denton Public Library. These are available in the genealogy area of the library.

Regards,

Terry Brantley

President, Denton County Genealogical Society

Family Tree Maker is Back

Software MacKiev purchased Family Tree Maker from Ancestry.com at the end of January 2016. This will be welcome news to the many Family Tree Maker users within our society. People with a current version of Family Tree Maker will be supported through Software MacKiev.

Family Tree Maker will continue to sync with Ancestry.com trees and allow the user to share your tree with family and work on it together. Family and friends can view the online version of your tree without software or subscription.

MacKiev will not be starting over but rather building from the Windows 2014 and Mac 3 editions, so users will not need to move trees as you would if you were moving to some other family tree software than Family Tree Maker.

The new Windows version, shipping on March 1st will be a somewhat updated version of the Windows 2014 edition, with as many bug fixes as they can fit in between now and March 1st. For the Mac version, they will have an update that will have some new features and some new background art added.

There will be no cost for the updates for owners of Windows 2014 and Mac 3. Those with older versions will be able to get upgrades to the latest edition including our updates for \$29.95. New full copies will be \$69.95, with an introductory offer for \$49.95 when the product ships.

More information about Family Tree Maker and Software MacKiev can be found at www.mackiev.com.

Federation of Genealogical Societies Announces \$2 Million Dollar Mark Surpassed for Preserve the Pensions Project

[The Federation of Genealogical Societies](#) (FGS) announces the \$2 million dollar mark has been surpassed in 2015 with the support of donors in the fundraising efforts to digitize the 7.2 million pension images for the 180,000 pensioners of the War of 1812 in the [Preserve the Pensions](#) project.

This is a landmark project. It marks the first time the genealogical community has come together to raise such a significant amount of money to preserve priceless documents. When completed, this project will save tax payers \$3.45 million dollars. FGS' previous successful efforts to index the [Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System](#) with the help of volunteers produced a \$6.3 million dollar tax savings. **Hence, these two projects will result in nearly a \$10 million dollar savings to tax payers.**

"We are deeply appreciative of so many within the family history community who continue to support the Preserve the Pensions project," says D. Joshua Taylor, FGS President. "This important milestone is the start of the 'homestretch' and is evidence of the passion and commitment amongst genealogists to preserve records for the future."

For every dollar raised, .98 cents goes directly to digitizing the documents. There are no salaries paid for this project—the project costs are primarily to print materials to publicize the project.

Additionally, in 2015 the project raised \$208,401 in total cash donations. This amount, coupled with the generous match from Ancestry.com, doubled the funds raised to \$416,802 bringing **thetotal amount raised for the project thus far to \$2,032,198!**

With generous donations and continued help in sharing information about the project, **significant progress can be made in 2016—possibly completing the fundraising for the project.** The images for pensioners with surnames beginning with the letters "A" through "M" have already been posted on the [Fold3 website](#) and will remain free forever thanks to donors!

Furthermore, due to record preparation and image capture issues at the archives, there is a delay in the publication of images on the site. It is anticipated that these issues will be resolved quickly and that image publication will resume within the next 60-90 days. There is always a publication preparation delay between record capture and publishing the images online. In the meantime, because of the support of donors, great fundraising progress has been made to complete the project, and **further donations can be made on the [War of 1812 Preserve the Pensions website](#).**



(Source: *Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter*)

Exact Location of Hangings of the Salem Witch Trials of 1692 has been Identified

Proctor's Ledge has now been identified as the exact location of the gallows used to execute 19 innocent people during the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. The site was confirmed as the hanging site last week by the Gallows Hill Project, a group of seven scholars who spent the past five years pinning down the exact spot. The rocky, wooded area has grabbed attention from not only visitors who want to grab a picture, but news crews and even direct descendants of some of the victims.

Proctor's Ledge is situated behind the present Walgreens on Boston Street and just down from Gallows Hill Park. You can read more in an article in the Salem (Massachusetts) News at <http://goo.gl/xbNJ7U>.



(Source: *Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter*)

JAN 2016 MINUTES

The meeting of the Denton County Genealogical Society was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Terry Brantley.

Members Present: 44
Visitors Present: 8

Agenda Topic: Approval of October 8, 2015 meeting minutes:

Unanimously approved, with corrections to number of visitors and clarification of what to do upon finding errors in Census Records available on Ancestry.com. Individuals may make suggestions to correct errors.

Agenda Topic: Treasurer's report:

Unanimously approved as presented in the Newsletter.

Announcements:

1. Next Wise County Genealogy Society meeting will be held next week, January 23 at 7:15 pm. Visitors are welcome to attend.
2. On January 23, a class entitled "Tips for Successful Searches using Ancestry" will be held from 3 to 5 pm at the Emily Fowler Public Library. On February 20, the class entitled "Free Online Genealogy Resources" will be held from 3 to 5 pm at the Emily Fowler Public Library. List of coming events can be found in the Newsletter.
3. The Board of Directors has approved purchase of a book to be given to the Library in honor of Gerald Brenholtz, Ed. D, a charter member and past president of DCGS. Terry will work with the family to select an appropriate book. A book will also be donated to the library in honor of Kathy Strauss's retirement as Head of the Research Department.
5. Volunteers for the Nominating Committee are needed by the February meeting. The committee will consist of 2 Officers and 3 members. Please contact any officer to volunteer.
6. Patty Gillespie, Wise County Genealogy Society

President was introduced as a guest.

Newbie Session:

1. Ancestry will no longer support Family Tree Maker. Roots Magic and Legacy continue to support this program.
2. GED.com will hold free Webinar on January 26 at 1:00 pm entitled "Choosing a Genealogy Software Program".

Program: "Uncommon Genealogy Sources" by Kathy Strauss:

1. The following sources are available: Newspapers, Passport Applications, Diaries, Prison Records, Pardon Registers, Cookbooks, Memorabilia, Sanborn Maps, Foreign Records of Emigration, Congressional Records and Memorials, Family Bibles and Land Records. These records may be found in Libraries and Archives, NUCMC, World Cat and Historical Societies.
2. Cattle brands are listed in County Clerk offices.
3. Lists of uncommon sources can be found on cyndislist.com by categories. 72,000 books can be found on Family Search.
4. Kathy suggests Eastman Genealogy blog be reviewed monthly.
5. Letters to Santa published in newspapers often lead to family members identity, as well as addresses of the letter writers.
6. Texas State Archives provide records created by the Governor's office from 1835 to 1907. These are available at the Denton Public Library.
7. Federal Passport applications often provide needed information. Some information is offered at no cost. Early applications contain a physical description in lieu of photographs.

Next meeting will be February 11, 2016
Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Jane Ingram, Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance January 1, 2016	\$3,191.70	Balance January 31, 2016	\$3,169.01
Deposits:		2015-2016 Paid Members – 85	
Dues (2015-2016)	\$30.00	Library Donations	
Total	\$30.00	April 1995 – May 2006	\$2,876.52
Disbursements:		June 2006 – June 2012	\$3,310.00
Sales tax, 2015	\$3.69	July 2012 – to date	\$512.45
Stamps	\$49.00		
Total	\$52.69		

Respectfully Submitted,
 Linda Touraine, Treasurer



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Programs

Free Online Genealogy Resources

Learn how to locate free, hard-to-find genealogy materials online. Learn search techniques to access genealogical and historical websites that may contain the answers to your most difficult family history questions. Basic computer skills are recommended.

Call 349-8752 to register.

Sat 2/20 Emily Fowler 3-5 p.m.

Researching Texas Pioneers

Learn about the early colonies and where to find information on your Texan forebears or if you are just interested in Texas history.

Sat 3/19 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

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.

Sat 4/9 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

Tips and Tricks for using Familysearch.org

Learn the best way to use one of the best free genealogy websites. We will focus on searching records, ordering microfilm and even becoming an indexer.

Sat 5/21 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

Denton County Genealogical Society

Meet fellow genealogists, share tips, & learn new information.

2/11 Kimberly Wells: Historical Epidemics and Migration

Emily Fowler 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

3/10 Lynell Moss: Land and Property Records

Emily Fowler 6:30—8:30 p.m.

4/14 Diana White: History of the DCGS; The Peters Colony and Emigration to Texas

Emily Fowler 6:30—8:30 p.m.

5/12 Round Robin Personal Experiences

Emily Fowler 6:30—8:30 p.m.

The Dallas Genealogical Society has announced its 2016 Spring Seminar, "From Whence They Came." Paul Milner, a native of northern England, will be the speaker. He is a professional genealogist and international lecturer. Lecture topics for the seminar include: "Effective Use of England's National Archives Website," "Irish Emigrants to North America: Before, During and After the Famine," "Scottish Emigration to North America: Before, During and After the Rebellions," and "Overlooked Sources for 17th and 18th Century English Research."

The seminar will be held at the Dallas Public Library, 1st Floor Auditorium, on March 12, 2016. Registration information can be found online at www.dallasgenealogy.org.

2014-2016 OFFICERS

President—Terry Brantley

Vice-President—Perry Abernethy

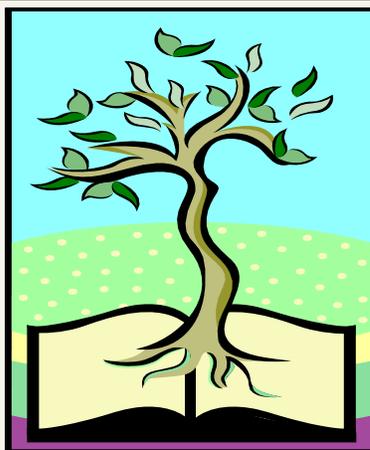
Secretary—Jane Ingram

Treasurer—Linda Touraine

Librarian—Kathy Strauss

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Membership—Linda Johnson



**NEXT MEETING OF THE
DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
March 10, 2016
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201