

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 12, 2016



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: “DCGS Member Personal Experiences Round Robin and Annual Business Meeting”

Members are welcome to share their genealogical accomplishments and discovers from the past year. Everyone is encouraged to bring their stories, heirlooms, and important documents for our popular annual “show and tell.” It’s time to “wow” us with all of your finds!

This will also be our annual business meeting and election of officers for the 2016-2018 term. The slate of officers from the Nominating Committee is as follows:

- President: Terry Brantley
- Vice-President/Program Chair: Perry Abernethy
- Secretary: Jane Ingram
- Treasurer: Linda Touraine
- Librarian/Publicity: Laura Douglas

Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

DCGS Members Save Cemetery

Donna and Joe Spears, DCGS members, have been working for several years to save the Smith Family Cemetery located in Dallas County along Illinois Avenue and Interstate 45. Donna’s ancestor, Thomas Smith, bought the land on which the cemetery rests in 1851. He was buried there in 1866.

Using a deed from 1877, Donna and Joe sued the current owner, ADI Engineering, in Dallas County court to preserve the family burial plot of .22 acres, and is working with the Texas State Historical Commission

to have it designated an Historical Texas Cemetery.

Donna and Joe have fenced off the cemetery and have placed a granite marker listing the burials. There were three historical markers remaining on the site. Donna and Joe had a ground-penetrating study at the cemetery and it revealed at least 10 graves in the cemetery.

The Spears and the Smith Cemetery were featured in an article in the Dallas Morning News on Sunday, April 17, 2016.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow members:

Well, here we are at the end of another great year of presentations by many outside speakers, many by our own members, and by our library staff. What a wealth of information we've been given!

Of course, we are always open for YOU bring your experiences in "disturbing the dead and annoying the living" to our members in one of our monthly programs.

This next meeting will be our annual "DCGS Member Personal Experiences Round Robin and Annual Business Meeting". We will all be anxious to hear what your accomplishments and discoveries have been this last year!

Our meeting next week will also be our annual business meeting. This is the night for election of officers for the term June 1st, 2016 through May 31st, 2018.

The Nominating Committee included Dayonne Work (Chairperson), Jane Ingram, Walta Evans, Perry Abernethy, and myself. I would like to say thank you to the Nominating Committee members for their efforts.

Here is the slate of officers from the Nominating Committee to be elected:

President: Terry Brantley
Vice President - Program Chair: Perry Abernethy
Secretary: Jane Ingram
Treasurer: Linda Touraine
Librarian - Publicity: Laura Douglas

Of course, nominations from the floor will be accepted before a vote is taken.

In addition to that, we have several members that have agreed to step in and perform the other functions that are so important to our group:

Membership Chair: Steve McCormick
Hospitality Chair: Walta Evans
Publications (Newsletter) Chair: Kathy Strauss
Webmaster: Chris Strauss

Just as a reminder, it's dues time again. Our dues are \$15 for an individual membership or \$25 for a family membership. Our treasurer, Linda Touraine will be accepting checks and cash at our next meeting. You can mail your check to DCGS in care of the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, TX 76201.

I want to thank all of those that helped me tremendously when I stepped into the position of DCGS President in September of 2014. Especially, Wanda Samek, Kathy Strauss, Linda Touraine, Dayonne Work, Mark & Mary Brownmiller, and the many others that helped me start down the President's road.

And a special thank you to those that were part of the team that helped me during the last two years: Kathy & Chris Strauss, Linda Touraine, Perry Abernethy, Laura Douglas, Susan McIntosh, Bobbie Briley, Jane Ingram, Nita Thurman, Linda Johnson and Kathi Coatney. And last, but not least, to my wife, Carol, for helping me with so much behind-the-scenes detail work.

Thank you all again!!!

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 several areas of the library.

Regards,

Terry Brantley

President, Denton County Genealogical Society



APRIL 2016 MINUTES

Denton County Genealogy Society Regular Monthly Meeting Terry Brantley, President 7:00 pm

Members Present: 34 **Visitors:** Donna Springer, Laura Treat, Bridget and Bridgette Spada

Agenda Topic: Approval of March 10, 2016 meeting minutes:

Motion to approve minutes as presented was made by Marilyn Simms. Seconded by Walta Evans. Unanimously approved.

Agenda Topic: Treasurer's report:

Motion to approve report as presented made by Perry Abernathy. Seconded by Jane Ingram. Unanimously approved.

Announcements:

1. Rule regarding number of visits allowed prior to membership was explain by Terry Brantley.
 2. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Dayonne Work, has met and offered the following slate of officers: Terry Brantley, President; Perry Abernathy, Vice President, Jane Ingram, Secretary, Linda Touraine, Treasurer and Laura Douglas, Librarian. No nominations from the floor were received.
 3. The Family Discovery Day will be held April 30 at the Church of Jesus Christ, Denton Stake, 3000 Old North Road. Registration begins at 8:00 am. Walta Evans and Kathy Strauss will be among the session leaders. Terry Brantley and Perry Abernathy will have a table with DCGS information.
 4. Wise County Genealogy Society will be on April 21. Visitors are welcome. Dallas County Genealogy Society meetings and classes can be found on their website.
 5. Laura Treat, UNT Film Archivist requested any North Texas residents with home movies, ticket stubs and/or movie theater advertisements featuring area events bring them to the Spotlight on North Texas scheduled for April 30 10:00 am to 5 pm at the Willis Library, Room 140 on the UNT campus. They will be copied and will become a part of the North Texas film heritage. This is joint effort by UNT Libraries and Texas Archive. Paper items can be scanned at the event. Films will be returned to the owner once they are added to the project files. Questions can directed to Laura Treat at 940-369-5293 or laura.treat@unt.edu.
2. Linda Touraine, Treasurer has requested a donation of \$1,500 be made to the Emily Fowler Library for purchase of genealogy materials. The treasury balance would be approximately \$1,600 if approved. Diana White

so moved. Motion was seconded by Perry Abernathy. Motion approved.

Newbie Session:

1. Perry Abernathy requested suggestions for obtaining his father's birth certificate. Missouri did not issue birth certificates at that time. Several suggestions were made.

Program: History of DCGS; The Peters Colony and Emigration to Texas by Diana White

Diana White is a charter member and was the first President of DCGS. The local LDS Church offered a class on Genealogy. At the close of this session, a group of attendees decided to form a business oriented Genealogy Society.

The Peters Colony was succeeded by the Texas Land and Emigration Company. Originally, the records were kept at The Colony. In 1721 Spain approved a contract for 400 Canary Island families to immigrate to Texas. In March 1731, 15 families of 53 people arrived in San Antonio. In 1821, Moses Austin contracted to bring 300 families to land on the Brazos river.

The Republic of Texas Land Policy contained 4 different class grants. One of 4 Empresario colonies of the Republic included Peters; Fisher and Millers; Mercer's and Castro's. The first Peters Colony contract was issued in 1841. The second Peters Colony experienced difficulties in attracting and retaining colonists. The third contract was signed on July 26, 1842 by Sam Houston. The Republic reserved each alternate section of this contract. The fourth contract sold interest to 3 Englishmen and 3 Americans: Daniel J. Carroll; Sherman Converse; and Charles Fenton Mercer.

Under Willis Stewart, Peters Colony reorganized as The Texas Land and Emigration Company on October 15, 1844. Many squatters claimed land. During the Hedgecox War of 1852, settlers stormed the headquarters and forced Hedgecox to leave the area. The legal difficulties took about 20 years to wind through the courts. Mercer's Colony problems were settled in the 20th century by a Supreme Court decision.

Next meeting will be May 12, 2016
Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Ingram, Secretary



“I Have My Family Tree Back to Adam and Eve”

by Dick Eastman

This is another bit of fiction that needs to be wiped out. I have often heard people (I won't call them "genealogists") at various times make the claim they have traced their family tree back to Adam and Eve. Of course, the "documentation" is always sketchy.

Robert C. Gunderson was a Senior Royalty Research Specialist, of the Church Genealogical Department, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons). He was an expert in medieval genealogy and started the Royalty Identification Unit in 1972. He passed away in 2003. However, before his death, Gunderson once was asked if such research was possible. He replied: *"The simplest answer is No. Let me explain. In thirty-five years of genealogical research, I have yet to see a pedigree back to Adam that can be documented. By assignment, I have reviewed hundreds of pedigrees over the years. I have not found one where each connection on the pedigree can be justified by evidence from contemporary documents. In my opinion it is not even possible to verify historically a connected European pedigree earlier than the time of the Merovingian Kings (c. a.d. 450–a.d. 752).*

"Every pedigree I have seen which attempts to bridge the gap between that time and the biblical pedigree appears to be based on questionable tradition, or at worst, plain fabrication. Generally

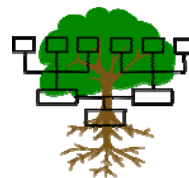
these pedigrees offer no evidence as to the origin of the information, or they cite a vague source."

François Weil, a director of studies (professor) at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en sciences sociales (EHESS) in Paris and currently the chancellor of the universities of Paris, is another expert in medieval pedigrees who agrees. Weil provides authoritative answers to these questions in his book *Family Trees: A History of Genealogy in America* (2013) published by Harvard University Press.

Both Gunderson and Weil agreed: European royal pedigrees cannot be verified before the 500s A.D.

To learn more, read: *Family Trees: A History of Genealogy in America.* By François Weil. Published by Harvard University Press, Online bookstore; 2013. ISBN 9780674045835. 320 pp. Indexes. Hardcover. \$27.95 • £20.95 • €25.20. <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674045835> or available on Amazon as a Kindle ebook or as in a hardcover book at <http://goo.gl/12RIV4>.

(Source: Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter)



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance April 1, 2016	\$3,107.06	2015-2016 Paid Members – 85
Deposits:		Library Donations
None		April 1995 – May 2006
Total	\$0.00	June 2006 – June 2012
		July 2012 – to date
Disbursements:		
None		
Total	\$0.00	
Balance April 30, 2016	\$3,107.06	

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Touraine, Treasurer



NEWS AND PROGRAMS FROM THE LIBRARY

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.

Spotlight on North Texas: Community Digitization Event

Do you have home movies of homecoming parades or rodeos? Do you have photographs of events on Theatre Row? Join the University of North Texas Libraries and the Texas Archive of the Moving Image (TAMI) for a free community digitization event and become part of film history of North Texas while also preserving your family's photographs, home movies, and more. Learn if your family's materials qualify for the free program and find accepted formats and item limits at <http://www.library.unt.edu/events/spotlight-north-texas>. Contact

Laura Treat with any questions at laura.treat@unt.edu or (940) 369-5293. This event has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities Common Heritage Program. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Sun 6/5 Emily Fowler 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Beginning Your Native American Genealogical Search

Aaron Holt with the National Archives at Fort Worth, will explore various Tribal Rolls with a focus on the Five Civilized Tribes (Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, Seminole and Cherokee). He will touch on the laws that regulated US Government and Tribal relations and attempt to answer among other questions: Who was a member of the Tribe? What does By Blood mean? Was Great-Grandmother a Cherokee Indian Princess? Registration is requested. **Sat 6/18 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.**

African American Genealogical Research and its Inhibitors

Join Larry McCarty as he takes you through highlights of his genealogically journey. He will share important navigational tools with specific guidelines for African American Research. Census forms will be reviewed, identifying inhibitors and road blocks to your search. A Q/A session will be provided to discuss your specific research questions. Registration is requested.

Sat 07/16 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

Remote Resources: America's GenealogyBank

Learn how to easily search more than a billion genealogy records from 1690 to the present, including obituaries, marriage notices, birth announcements, and more. Includes historical newspapers, books and documents, as well as the Social Security Death Index. American's GenealogyBank can be accessed from home with a current DPL Library card. Registration is requested.

Thu 7/28 Emily Fowler Library 7 p.m.

Using Newspaper Archives

Learn how Newspaper Archives can assist in your genealogy or local history research. We will explore the database, learn how to search, and how to save the results. Registration is requested.

Thu 8/11 Emily Fowler 7 p.m.

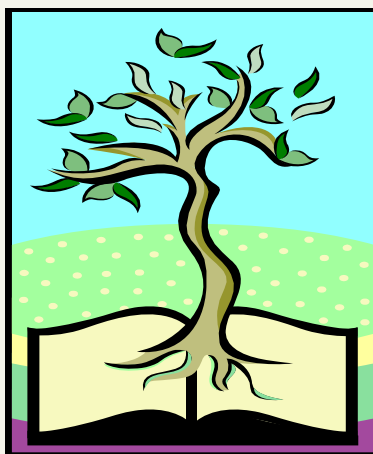
Denton County Genealogical Society

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

5/12 Round Robin Personal Experiences
Emily Fowler 6:30—8:30 p.m.

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
Sept 8, 2016
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201