

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

MARCH MEETING THURSDAY MARCH 9, 2017

Program: "Indexing"

Speaker: Walta Evans

FamilySearch indexing is a volunteer transcription effort that makes valuable genealogical records freely searchable online. Hundreds of thousands of volunteer indexers have participated from around the world. Since 1921, indexing has been essential to making records available, but in the last 7 years, the digital revolution has made it easier for everyone everywhere to participate. Everyone deserves to be remembered and you can help make this possible. No special skills or time commitments are required. You can help people from around the world find and trace their ancestry for free.

Walta Evans became interested in family history as a teen at paternal family reunions and hearing stories about her mother's paternal line who came from Jersey, Channel Islands, and France. Walta earned a B.S., M.Educ. and MLS from University of North Texas. She worked for 49 years as a teacher and librarian. She was the Genealogy/ Librarian at Van Zandt County Library and a contributor to Van Zandt County Texas Histories and Biographies. Walta serves her church calling as a Family History Consultant. She has been a presenter at the Denton Stake Family History Fair 2015-2016 and for the Denton County Genealogical Society.



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

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The Truth About St. Patrick

March 17 is celebrated by millions of Irish descendants every year. They all know the "facts" about Saint Patrick. Or do they?

St. Patrick wasn't Irish, and he wasn't born in Ireland. Patrick was probably born in what is now England, Scotland or Wales around A.D. 390. Most agree that St. Patrick's parents were Roman citizens living in the British Isles. Therefore, Patrick himself was a Roman citizen even though he was born somewhere in what is now Great Britain. He was living in Scotland or Wales (scholars can't agree which) when he was kidnapped at age 16 by

Irish raiders and sold as a slave, reports [Catholic Online](#). He spent years in Ireland herding sheep until he escaped. He eventually returned to Ireland where he spread Christianity.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow members:

I hope you enjoyed Kathi Coatney's enlightening presentation about the history of quilting, and the interesting stories related to quilting. How many of you went home and dug that old quilt out of the closet to look at again from a different point of view???? Stay tuned for part 2!

And of course, we've all just witnessed the winning of the Oscars again. An interesting comment was made by one of the Oscar recipients that many of the films this year were about "life".

As I mentioned last month, I think all of us find a lot of interesting historical stories about "life" (some pleasant, some not) behind our family tree. At our meeting last month, one of our members stood up and mentioned how experienced many of our own members are, and the invaluable knowledge we have within our group. She invited you, as Kathi did, as I have done, -and- as several of our members have done in the past, to bring YOUR knowledge and experience to our group with YOUR "finds" in your genealogical expeditions. We can all benefit from the insight gained from each others research efforts.

Our presenter this month is Walta Evans. Walta is yet another one of our very knowledgable DCGS

members who has given numerous presentations. A full description can be found further on in the newsletter.

If you would like to serve the group, the Membership Chair is still open. Please contact one of the officers if you are interested in filling this position.

If you are new to our group, I would urge you to explore the numerous resources available at, or provided by the City of Denton Public Library. As they always have been, the staff is very helpful with any questions you may have.

Be sure and read the rest of this newsletter for the latest information on upcoming genealogical events, and also check the City of Denton Public Library web site. 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

Families Torn Apart by Slavery Sought Lost Loved Ones in Newly Archived Ads

The ads are gut-wrenching, such as, "Where is John Person?" "Ten years have gone by since his mother, Hannah Cole, last saw him. The pain of his disappearance, the mystery of his whereabouts, and the aching question of whether he is alive or dead have driven her to take out an advertisement in the Christian Recorder, seeking an answer.

"This is the only child I have," it reads, "and I desire to find him much."

The date is June 23, 1865, and Cole is on a quest that would consume former slaves such as herself for decades after the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, leaving a trail of heartbreak and hope in newspaper classified columns. Mothers search for children sold away. Husbands long for wives torn from them years before. Sons and daughters hope for any clue about a lost parent whom they would "most gratefully receive." Now, a project by Villanova University and Mother Bethel

AME Church in Philadelphia will make the classified ads easily accessible. The goal of "[Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery](#)" is an online database of these snapshots from history, which hold names of former slaves, owners, traders, plantation locations, and relatives gone missing. So far, project researchers have uploaded and transcribed 1,000 ads published in six newspapers from 1863 to 1902: the South Carolina Leader in Charleston, the Colored Citizen in Cincinnati, the Free Man's Press in Galveston, the Black Republican in New Orleans, the Colored Tennessean in Nashville, and the Christian Recorder, the official organ of the African Methodist Episcopal Church denomination published at Mother Bethel.

This sounds like a great source of genealogy information. You can read more in an article by Kristin E. Holmes in The Inquirer web site at: <https://goo.gl/cS2QBh>.

(Source: *Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter*)

FEBRUARY 2017 MINUTES

Terry Brantley, President called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. 19 members and 5 visitors were present.

Motion to approve the November meeting minutes, as presented in the newsletter, was made by Kathi Coatney and seconded by Linda Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the Treasurer’s report, as presented in the newsletter, was made by Walta Evans and seconded by Jane Ingram. Motion passed unanimously.

The Wise County and Dallas Genealogy Society meeting schedules can be found on their websites. Laura Douglas announced the Special Collections Dept. has been rearranged. There is now room to work at the computers. The Library genealogy programs schedule for March, April and May can be found in the Newsletter. “Introduction to Fold 3” will be presented at 3:00 February 11.

Newbie Session: 1. Marilyn Simms asked that each member relay any recommendations and/or suggestions for future programs to Perry or Terry. 2. Walta said that she has been watching RootsTech online and suggested that “Alexa” may be a useful tool to find information regarding your ancestors. This might be another way to spark interest in younger generations.

Kathi Coatney presented the program “How Old is that Quilt and Why Should I Care”. Quilts can reveal the economic ups and downs of a family as well as the era in which they were made. Matching borders and matching squares indicate the family was enjoying better times. The pattern is created by each block. The quilt pattern is determined by the quilting stitch pattern. The age of a quilt can be determined by the fabric used. Stripes and plaids were created early on. The quilt’s age is determined by the newest material used. All known information regarding origin and history should be stitched to the back of a quilt. Without such a label, it is impossible to positively date it's origin. Old tobacco pouches have been found in quilts. Each state has it's own quilt pattern. The Baltimore and Crazy Quilt patterns could make up an entire program on their own. Kathi brought 5 of her personal quilts to show. Products she has made are available in a shop in Pottsboro. Her company is Blue-Eyed Kat. Denton First Methodist Women’s group meet each week to quilt. Volunteers are needed. Funds raised benefit women and children around the world. Contact information for 2 professional quilt appraisers was given.

Next meeting will be March 9, 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Ingram, Secretary



TREASURER’S REPORT

Balance Feb. 1, 2017	\$2,284.52	2016-2017 Paid Members – 61
Deposits:		
None		Library Donations
		April 1995 – May 2006
		June 2006 – June 2012
		July 2012 – Feb. 2017
Total Income:	\$-0-	\$2,876.52
		\$3,310.00
		\$1,961.34
Disbursements:		
None		
Total Disbursements	\$-0-	
Balance Feb. 28, 2017	\$2,284.52	

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Touraine, Treasurer



Sleuth Along Interstate Highways for Your Ancestors

The thought of your ancestors of 100 or 200 years ago traveling along a modern-day interstate highway may seem amusing as interstate highways didn't exist until the 1950s. Yet, it is quite possible that your ancestors traveled along the same routes as today's interstates, plus or minus a very few miles.

Westward migration in the United States usually took place in the path of least resistance: on riverboats where practical or on pathways along rivers when boat travel was not available. In cases where there was no river to follow, overland travel generally went along the path of least resistance, too: through valleys, through mountain passes, and perhaps straight across the flatlands and prairies.

When studying migration patterns throughout history in the United States, we can see hundreds of examples. In New England, the first inland areas to be settled were along the Merrimack River, the Connecticut River, the Penobscot River, and the others.

When researching the origins of those who settled the mountainous areas of northern Vermont and New Hampshire, we find that most of them were from Connecticut and western Massachusetts. They traveled up the Connecticut River, not overland across the north-south mountain ranges that receding glaciers carved many thousands of years earlier. Today, Interstate 91 follows roughly the same route.

In Massachusetts, the east-west migration generally followed the valleys through the central part of the state, often following the Boston Post Road (present-day U.S. Route 20). That path is more or less parallel to the present-day Massachusetts Turnpike, or Interstate 90.

As we travel down the eastern seaboard, the migration pattern was repeated: the Hudson River, the Susquehanna River, the Potomac River, the Savannah River, and many others became "highways" of travel for our ancestors. As we move further west, we find the "super highways" of years past: the Mississippi River, the Ohio, and the Missouri.

Of course, rivers didn't always exist in convenient places. Many times the early settlers blazed overland routes through valleys where travel would be easier for wagons drawn by horses or oxen. Two major examples would be the Cumberland Gap in Tennessee and the Wilderness Road in Virginia. These routes did follow rivers, where possible, but they also went overland through valleys, following paths that could be used by horses and oxen pulling wagons. Of course, there were dozens of others highways.

If you follow the migration paths of your ancestors prior to 1850, you will see that they usually traveled along the same routes as did earlier travelers, routes that allowed for easier transport. These routes were generally on rivers, beside rivers, or through valleys.

For a few years in the first half of the 19th century, canals looked like they would become the primary method of transportation. Indeed, that did happen in a few areas, such as

the Erie Canal. The traffic on the canals moved at two or three miles an hour as the barges and boats were typically powered by work animals that walked along adjacent footpaths. However, canals were doomed almost from the start as a new, mechanized beast soon appeared that could move more goods, move them faster, and do so at less construction expense. By the mid 19th century, railroads started appearing in significant numbers. Railroad locomotives could perform the work of many horses or oxen, and the travel experience for passengers in railroad cars was much better than riding on a buckboard or a Conestoga wagon. These "iron horses" were very powerful but had one major shortcoming: they weren't very good at climbing hills.

The railroads were always built along the flattest land possible, often on or beside the routes that had already been established for overland travel. The railroads thrived best along riverbanks, which rarely had hills, or through valleys, including the Cumberland Gap and the Wilderness Road. More than a few railroads were built on the footpaths beside canals, replacing the "beasts of burdens" that had powered the canal boats of the previous generation. Of course, these new-fangled railroads transported immigrants, freight, and livestock alike.

Let's fast forward another century. In the 1950s, the federal government began its interstate highways project. The primary justification was to build a transportation system the Defense Department could use to move convoys in time of war. However, commercial and personal uses soon eclipsed defense purposes. Today we all travel along interstate highways without regard to the travel hardships of our ancestors. The interstate highways often follow the same paths as the earlier railroads and the still earlier ox-carts and covered wagons. While modern construction techniques have allowed a few exceptions, such as building highways in the mountains, the majority of today's interstate highways are built along traditional trade routes and migration paths. In other words, today's highways often follow rivers, old canals, and deep valleys.

Are you mystified as to the origins of some family in your family tree? You know where they lived on a certain date but wonder where they came from? Get out a modern-day highway map, and find the town where those ancestors lived. Next, see where the major highways of that town go. Chances are that your ancestors traveled along one of those routes. They almost never traveled over a mountain range or through a swampy area.

There's a good chance that your ancestors followed the same approximate route as today's super highways. Start by looking at the records of the state "up the highway" from their hometown. Sleuthing along today's interstates may actually pay off.

By Dick Eastman, *Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter*

NEWS AND PROGRAMS FROM THE LIBRARY

Denton County Genealogical Society

Meet fellow genealogists, share tips, & learn new information. Visitors are welcome.

03/09 – What, How and Why of Indexing – presented by Walta Evens

04/13 – American Military Research presented by Joseph Ryan

05/11 – Members Round Table of Experiences
Emily Fowler 6:30 p.m.

A Historical Overview of the Chisholm Trail

Several million head of wild Texas cattle were gathered and driven to the railheads of central Kansas beginning in 1867.

This is a synopsis of the evolution of the trail that became known as the Chisholm Trail. Presented by Wayne Ludwig, volunteer and resident historian at the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum in Fort Worth

Sat. 03/18 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

Scanners, Converters, and More

Did you know that you can convert a VHS tape to a DVD at the Library? Find out more about this service and other equipment and technology available in the Special Collections Department that can help you in your genealogy and local history research. Registration is requested.

Fri. 03/24 Emily Fowler 2 p.m.

Care and Identification of Your Photographs

Jessica Phillips, head of Preservation at the University of North Texas, will talk about simple ways to identify various photographic formats as well as guidelines for proper care and handling. Registration is requested

Sat. 04/15 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

2017 Annual Family History Fair

This free event features a mixture of live presentations by area genealogy experts, informational displays, and video presentations from RootsTech 2017, with an emphasis on the expanded and improved FamilySearch website as well as a host of other resources. For more information contact the

Denton Family History Center Director, Eric Kaszynski by email at ekaszynski@gmail.com.

Sat. 04/22 Denton Family History Center - 3000 Old North Road 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

I've Got—Or I'm Getting—My DNA Report: Now What Do I Do?

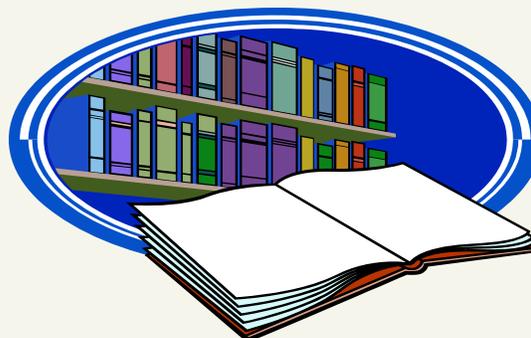
Presented by Patti Gillespie, from a non-geneticist point of view, will explain how to choose a company and a test, what to do while waiting for the report, and how to maximize the report results. Whether deciding who to contact, how to use the research within the DNA report, or just how to link our trees to our DNA results, this session will be helpful. The potential use of raw data will be introduced with visual step-by-step to uploading to other sites known as 3rd party tools. Registration is requested

Sat. 05/20 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

Tips for Successful Searches using Ancestry

With more than 9,000 databases and 200 billion images, Ancestry is the premier online genealogy resource—and it's available to you for free within any Library location. This class will introduce you to the many features of Ancestry Library Edition and show you how to do efficient and effective searches. Basic computer skills are recommended. Registration is requested

Thur. 05/25 Emily Fowler 6:30 p.m.



2016-2018 OFFICERS

President—Terry Brantley

Vice-President—Perry Abernethy

Secretary—Jane Ingram

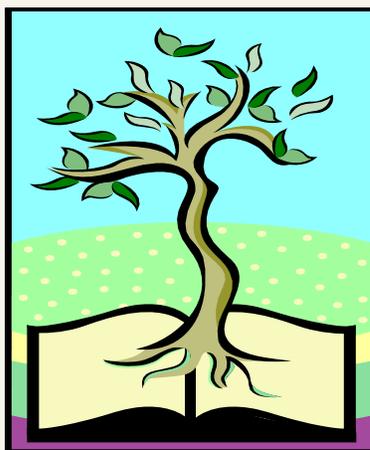
Treasurer—Linda Touraine

Librarian—Laura Douglas

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Membership— Vacant

Newsletter Editor—Kathy Strauss



**NEXT MEETING OF THE
DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
APRIL 13, 2017
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201