

# 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 13, 2006



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

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News from the Library	2
Treasurer's Report	2
Minutes	3
Workshops and Seminars	3
This and That	4
This and That	5

### Program: "The Civil War—A Soldier's Life"

**Rodney Hess, a historian and teacher in the Keller Independent School District will speak at the April meeting of the Denton County Genealogical Society. He is a graduate of the University of North Texas, and winner of over 25 major teaching awards, including teacher of the year for his school and for the entire Keller school**

**district. On April 21st, Rodney Hess will be awarded the University of North Texas Distinguished Alumni from the History Department. He holds the rank of Lieutenant in the 11th Texas Cavalry and Lieutenant in the 4 U.S. Cavalry.**

**Mr. Hess is the founder of the U.S. History Honor Society, Red River Rangers. He takes 8th grade students to historical sites and to reenactments. He**

**explains that it is important for his students to experience history by living it. Mr. Hess dresses in period uniforms for all of his classes.**

**Mr. Hess will bring Civil War artifacts, relics, and great stories for all us to experience as part of his presentation.**



### Officer Elections Coming in May

At the May meeting, the Denton County Genealogical Society will hold its elections for officers who will serve for the next two years. Officers needed are: President, Vice-President/

Programming, and Secretary. The nominating committee is working on a slate of officers. Please consider serving in one of these offices. You can contact the nominating committee at

the April meeting.



## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Denton Public Library will present a Beginning Genealogy workshop on Thursday, April 20, 2006, 7:30 p.m., in the meeting room at the Emily Fowler Central Library. Please join us for an introduction to researching your family history, or come to refresh your research skills. Please contact

the Genealogy and Special Collections Department at 940-349-8713 to register for this free program.

The library is looking for historical pictures around Denton to include in our Denton Then and Now exhibit that is planned for the celebration of the Sesquicentennial of the City of Denton. If you

have pictures that you would like to donate, please call the Special Collections Department at 940-349-8713.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to work on special projects in the Genealogy Department, please let your desire be known by calling or stopping the Emily Fowler Central Library. We have projects in

indexing, preservation, and data entry, to name a few. We welcome all who wish to contribute their time.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

**Denton County Genealogical Society** 2005-2006 Paid Members—45

**Treasurer's Report**  
March 31, 2006

**Balance February 28, 2006**  
\$ 1,473.24

**Funds Deposited**

Interest .35  
Total Deposits \$ .35

**Funds Disbursed**

Speaker Fees 100.00  
NGS Dues 50.00  
Total Disbursements \$ 150.00

**Balance March 31, 2006**  
\$1,323.59

**Library Donations**

April 1995 - May 02 \$1,994.22  
June 2002 - May 03 799.15  
June 2003 - May 05 83.15

**Birth Books Sold (52)**

\$1,670.00  
Printing Cost (200) -2,049.13  
Postage -118.69  
Sales Tax Paid -104.78  
Advertising (1) -30.00  
Profit \$ -632.60

Death Books Sold (136)

\$3,104.72  
Printing Cost (300) -1,593.15  
Consignment Fees -390.00  
Postage -156.99  
Sales Tax Paid -77.19  
Advertising -237.45  
Profit \$ 649.94

Respectfully Submitted, Holly Hervey, Treasurer



## MINUTES – MARCH 2006 MEETING

The Denton County Genealogical Society met in the meeting room of the Emily Fowler Central Library on March 9, 2006. The social time was at 6:30 p.m. at which the members enjoyed refreshments and visited with each other.

President Linda Touraine called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Diana White moved and Kathy Strauss seconded that the minutes of the February meeting be approved as written in the newsletter. The treasurer's report was corrected and filed. Plans for the April meeting were discussed.

Vernell Boyd, of Pinehurst, Texas, and

four of her guests were recognized. Vice-President Mary Jo Bruce introduced the speaker, Vernell Boyd, a member of the American Society of Dowsers.

Ms. Boyd explained the ancient art of dowsing as a way of discovering minerals, water, graves, etc. At one time in Germany, dowsers served a two year apprenticeship and wore uniforms of their trade. She stressed that there is an etiquette of dowsing, and that it should be used for success in the searching. One should ask "Can I, may I, should I?" before

engaging in the search. Ms. Boyd also demonstrated the different tools used by dowsers and explained how they could be made from common items.

After her presentation, Ms. Boyd offered materials for sale, including tools and publications. Several members purchased items with great expectations of success in using this ancient craft.

The meeting was adjourned by President Linda Touraine, and the membership helped clear the room where we could be out of the building by 9:00 p.m.

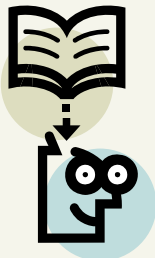
Respectfully submitted,  
Diana White,  
Substitute Secretary



## WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

**Texas Scottish Festival,  
Arlington, TX, 2-4 June 2006**

**NGS Conference in the  
States, Chicago, IL, 7-10  
June 2006**



**National Institute on  
Genealogical Research,  
Washington, D.C., 16-22 July  
2006**

**Angelina College Genealogy  
Conference, Lufkin, TX, 20-  
22 July, 2006**



**John B. Denton Days,  
Denton, TX, 26 July 2006**

**Dallas Genealogical Society  
Summer Institute, Dallas,  
TX, 27-30 July 2006**

**FGS Conference, Boston,  
MA, 30 Aug-Sept 2 2006**



## THIS AND THAT

### LDS Microfilm Conversion Progressing

According to Brittany Karford of the LDS Church Magazines, The monumental task of converting the microfilmed records contained in the Granite Mountain Vault in Utah could be completed in as little as 10-30 years. This has been made possible through the use of a new technology called FamilySearch Scanning. The LDS Church is also close to make the transition from microfilm cameras to digital cameras. Film and microfiche will still be stored in the mountain facility for long-term preservation. Once the conversion to scanned images is complete, all records, once only available in microfilm, will be accessible from FamilySearch.org.

### QUICK TIPS

#### Ask Around on Local Research Trips

Always ask around when you pay a visit to a family locale. On our way to Alaska, my husband and I made a side trip to Chelan Washington to do some genealogy. Imagine my surprise when I walked into the local historical society, asked the attendant if they knew of the "Van Meter" family and she answered, "Why yes, I do know we have some photographs, entries in the baptismal records, and you will find some headstones in our cemetery!" Genealogy heaven! Now, I never hesitate to ask, ask, ask!

Karen Binkley  
Long Beach CA

### Correspondence Log

To maintain my letters of information about ancestors from relatives I added them to my notebook in clear sleeves so you can show who its from, then the data received. This saves time searching for these letters and other data that they sent. I put each in the notebook sleeves according to the dates received. This saves a lot of time searching for information.  
[unsigned]

### Atlas Helps Sort Out Boundary Changes

*The Oxford Atlas of World History* is a fascinating help when researching the actual national homeland of an ancestor in a particular year. National boundaries change throughout history so the location of a city or area may be in a different country now than it was when your ancestor emigrated!  
Susan Peck

### Distributing Heirlooms

As a lawyer, may I suggest that to ensure that heirlooms get to the correct heir, particularly those that are of significant value or coveted by a number of heirs, you include them in your will. This ensures they go where you want them to go and allows the heir to insist on their right to a particular item.

For the smaller, less fiscally valuable items, a phrase such as "I trust that my executor will be guided in distributing my estate by such memoranda as I leave in a binder/notebook, etc. titled 'For My Executor' (or any other name you choose). Then make sure the book has pictures of the specific items, a

copy of the history you wanted to pass along, and the full name and birth date or address of the recipient.

So often people write, "I want John to have my old chest." But that could be any chest from a tea chest to a hope chest to a bureau or the old travel chest in the attic that no one knows exists! And it could be John the youngest grandson, or John your son, or John the handyman!

And remember, the intended recipient of something very important can die before the testator. A book like this allows the person to write notes to the executor explaining what they want to happen if someone predeceases them. It can be easily added to when something new is acquired or something sold or given to the recipient. Other directions/suggestions can also be included as it does not legally bind the executor, but provides great help and moral-suasion.

Different jurisdictions allow you to deal with your estate and will in different ways, so these are only suggestions that I have found work very well in Ontario.

### Nursing Home Newsletter

I have found that the county-run nursing home prints a newsletter every month. Each month they print a biography of the resident of the month. This is a good source of info on people who are still with us.  
Gordon Mitchell  
Hickory Corners, MI

## THIS AND THAT

### MORE QUICK TIPS

#### Source For Seeking Cemeteries

I was searching for the cemetery where my great-grandparents, grand-uncle, aunt, and their son are buried. I knew the name of the church but it had been closed, as far as administration, with services only on Sundays by a visiting priest. The church's old phone number forwarded to another parish and they didn't know where the cemetery was. The city is quite large so it was going to be a lengthy search. I found an area with several small church cemeteries so I went there to search.

The tip I'd like to share is to go to the local monument manufacturer. I stopped in and they knew right where to send me. The church's cemetery was very small and was in an area with about a dozen or so others. I quickly found the graves I was looking for and one for a grand-aunt I didn't know of. If the monument company could not have helped, I would have tried funeral homes near the church for information.  
Ed Dowds



Previously published in RootsWeb  
Review: 5 April 2006, Vol. 9, No. 14.

#### Finding a Home for Colorado Treasures

By Bobbie Coons in Garland, Texas, USA

Over 20 years ago, while I was working as a secretary for a major international moving company in Dallas, Texas, a household good shipment came in from Castle Rock, Colorado and went into storage in Dallas, Texas. Several years

passed and the shipment was never paid for and efforts to contact the shipper were unsuccessful, the goods were destined to be sold to pay for the moving costs.

As they were getting the items ready to be sold at auction, a chest of personal items was found and was going to be disposed of. There was an old family photo album which had pictures from the 1800s and I just could not see throwing away those pictures so I brought the album home with me, wrapped it up and put it in the bottom of a hall closet and in time I forgot about it.

A week or so ago, I went into that closet for something else and found the old album there, along with a little book (all in Swedish) and several old postcards sent to various members of this family. I began looking through these things and it came to me that we can now do things that we could not do 20 years ago, now that we have computers.

I am a genealogist so I began researching this family. I was not having any luck because only a few of the pictures had any identification and those names did not come up in my research. One night about a week ago I found in the RootsWeb archives some cemetery records for Castle Rock, Colorado and there I found this family -- pioneer father and mother, their children and their spouses -- all buried together.

Since I now had names and birth and death dates I was able to find descendants of this family in genealogical research. I sent an e-mail to the great-great-granddaughter of this pioneer father and found where I could send the

family items to them. They were very surprised and grateful. A few days ago, I put in the mail this family album, the little Swedish book and the family postcards, several of which are quite valuable.

Finally these things will be where they belong. What great good computers can be used for!

#### Humor: Dearly Beloved...

Thanks to: Judy Wolf, who writes, "I was going through a microfilm of Presbyterian Church of Morristown New Jersey records at the Family History Center recently. At the end of the marriage listings, I found the following":

Mr. Jas STEELE, aged 76 to Miss Deborah IRON, aged 71.

"Ah me! What evils do envision  
That man who meddles w(ith) cold iron."

At Albany, Mr. Anthony CIVELL to Miss Fanny WOLF--

"Was eer a greater changing known  
In this sad world of evil.  
While many men to brutes have grown  
Wolves are becoming Civell."

In Bozazh, Conn., Mr. John BATE and Mary Ann BASS

-- after a courtship of one hour  
"Is this not angling well I ask  
Such tender fish to take  
He caught in one short hour a bass  
The Bass tho' caught the Bate."

In Caswell Co., N. C. on 10th May 1825

Wm. BEAN to Sarah E. GREENFIELD

"If fate shall to their wishes yield  
And fate to true love leans;  
Time may bestow on this Greenfield  
A lovely crop of Beans."

DENTON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 424707  
Denton, TX 76204