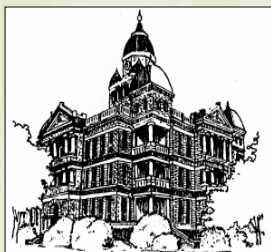


# DCGS NEWS

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



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.rootsweb.com/~txdcgs

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## OCTOBER MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2006

### Program:

**Was Your  
"Grandmother a  
Relict? What do these  
old words mean?"**

**Barbara Wylie**

**Barbara Brixey Wylie** is the wife of John Vincent Wylie, Professional Genealogist Services for her husband's clients include research, manuscript preparation, indexing and proofreading.

She is an experienced Speaker at the National, Regional and Local areas.

She has spoken at these national conferences: National Genealogical Society's 1997 & 2000 Conference, Federation of Genealogical Societies' 1997 Conference GENTECH95, GENTECH98, GENTECH99.

She has had regional speaking engagements in conferences and societies in Texas, New Mexico, Montana, Wisconsin, Colorado, Kansas, the Ozarks, Permian Basin, South Plains, Fort Worth, Grand Prairie, Shreveport, East Texas, Dallas and others.

She is the co-author of one book and has had articles published in at least ten periodicals, and is past editor of three. She has been awarded a TSGS writing award four times. She currently belongs to seven genealogical societies.



## October is Family History Month

Family History Month takes place every October and is a time to bring your family together to remember and honor your ancestors.

Making Family History Month nationally recognized has been a project many have worked hard on for years.

Senator Orrin Hatch helped pass legislation that designated October as Family History Month in 2001, 2002, and 2003. He has said, "Researching ancestry is a very important component of identity. It can lead to long-sought-after family reunions or allow for life saving medical treatments

that only genetic links will allow."

Celebrate your roots with your family this month.



## TIDBITS OF DENTON HISTORY

The first county seat of Denton County, established in 1846, was called Pinckneyville. It was named after J. Pinckney Henderson, the first governor of the State of Texas. It was abandoned because of the lack of water, and its unpleasant location. There were no buildings erected on the site. Court was held under a large shade tree.

The second county seat of Denton County, established in 1848, was called Alton, now called

Old Alton. Court was held under shade trees. There were no buildings at the site, and the nearest water was two miles south.

The third county seat of Denton County was established in 1851. It was named New Alton. Denton County's first courthouse was built at this location. It was made of hewed logs, using donated material and volunteer labor. A small settlement grew around the courthouse, including businesses and churches.

The fourth, and final, county seat of Denton was established in 1857. This last move was to locate the county seat closer to the geographic center of the county. The county seat was named Denton, in honor of John B. Denton. Lots were reserved for the courthouse, jail, schools and churches. The lots around the square were sold at an auction on January 10, 1857. Many of the businesses moved their buildings to Denton from New Alton.

**Bibliography**  
Bridges, C.A. *History of Denton, Texas*. Waco: Texian Press, 1978.



Old Alton Tree

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**Balance July 31, 2006**  
\$ 1,513.32

**Funds Deposited**  
Dues \$ 260.00  
Birth Books 70.00  
Death Books 50.00  
Interest .19  
Total Deposits \$ 380.19

**Funds Disbursed**  
Speaker Fee \$ 50.00  
Printing Expense 41.96  
Total Disbursed \$ 91.96

**Balance Sept. 30, 2006**  
\$1,801.55

**2006-2007 Paid Members—43**

**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) \$1,740.00  
Printing Cost (200) -2,049.13  
Postage -118.69  
Sales Tax Paid -104.78  
Advertising (1) -30.00  
Profit \$ -562.60

Death Books Sold (136) \$3,154.72  
Printing Cost (300) -1,593.15  
Consignment Fees -390.00  
Postage -156.99  
Sales Tax Paid -77.19  
Advertising -237.45  
Profit \$ 699.94

Respectfully Submitted, Holly Hervey, Treasurer



## MINUTES – MAY 2006 MEETING

The Denton County Genealogical Society met in the meeting room of the Emily Fowler Central Library on September 14, 2006. Refreshments were provided by Ralph and Barbara Pike for the 6:30 to 7:00 social time.

President Linda Touraine called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and introduced the society officers. We had seven new members and visitors present, and Linda asked them to introduce themselves. Linda then presided over the business meeting, during which the minutes and treasurer's report from the May meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. Linda asked if everyone who requested a mailed newsletter received one and reminded the members to inform her if they wanted to be placed on the email list.

There was no old business. Under new business, Linda reminded us to pick up a copy of the handout containing an updated roster, year book, and by-laws. She also reminded those interested to sign up for refreshments and to volunteer as a researcher. Linda announced that the early registration date for the Texas State Genealogy Society 2006 Conference has been moved to October

1. Willie Malone suggested that we designate Holly Hervey as our society's official delegate to the conference. Kathy Straus made a motion to do so, Willie seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Mel Brewer introduced our guest speaker, Tresa Tatyrek, who is a member of the Dallas Genealogical Society. Tresa's topic was "Genealogical Resources on the Internet: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly". Handouts were provided, and Tresa provided us with excellent tips on using the internet in our research. She cautioned us to beware of anything posted on the internet that does not include the source of the information and reminded us to scrutinize all information on the internet. It is always best to pull the original record for verification due to mistakes in transcription, combining of records, and lack of source documentation. Tresa also mentioned that our society should place a link to our website on Rootsweb. In addition to her helpful internet advice, Tresa reminded us that we can find a wealth of information through

our libraries.

Following the program, Linda asked if anyone would volunteer to be our Parliamentarian. Members were asked to email her, if interested.

Kathy Strauss gave our librarian's report and informed us of several new electronic databases that are available at the local library. She also noted that the location of the DAR meeting on Constitution Sunday has been moved to the Civic Center.

Mel Brewer reported that all of our programs have been scheduled except for the months of March and April. He has an acquaintance that can provide a program on computer maintenance for one of those months, and the attendees present showed enough interest for Mel to schedule this program. He has another friend, who is skilled at producing albums on the computer and modifying photographs and will look into scheduling her for a program. Lloyd Bockstruck will not be available until next year.

Mel requested that the society offer official congratulations to Dr.

Chris Strauss upon completion of his PhD. Mel made the motion, and it was seconded by Willie Malone. The motion carried unanimously.

The society has suffered two deaths recently – charter member Virginia Brenholtz and the son-in-law of June Knox. Willie Malone made a motion to provide library donations in their memory, and Mona Carrico seconded. The motion carried.

Linda adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm, and the 35 members and visitors present helped clear the room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vickie Davis, Secretary



## QUICK TIPS

### Requesting U.S. Passport Applications

Using Ancestry.com [Boston Passenger Lists](#) I discovered my great-grandfather returned to Ireland in 1932, at the age of sixty. On the passenger manifest, next to his name and address, was a United States passport number and its issue date. I was intrigued. Why did he go to Ireland at the height of the depression? How long was he there? I wrote to the U.S. Department of State's Office of Information Resources Management requesting a copy of his passport application under the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552). By doing this, I saved the \$60 fee the Department of State normally charges for this service. The downside is I had to wait five months for the document. But it was worth it! I received a copy of his application today and it contains his birth date, place and country of birth; the location and date of his naturalization; his current address; the name of his father and his father's country of birth; the countries he planned to visit with the passport, the reason for his visit; how long he was traveling for, the port he was sailing from, the name of the ship, the date he was departing; his height, age, hair and eye color; his occupation; his signature; a signature and address for an identifying witness (his brother-in-law in this case); and

best of all, a copy of his photograph! There is space on the application for names of a wife and children, with personal data, but these were left blank. So for those of you with U.S. naturalized immigrants in your ancestry, don't stop searching for a passenger manifest just for their first trip to the USA. Look for a possible trip home later in life. If you find a passport number and date of issue, you can submit a request for a copy under the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552). You will need to provide credible evidence to indicate the person is deceased, in order to overcome the Privacy Act restrictions. (I used photocopies of his Irish birth certificate and obituary.) You will also need to provide the following information: The passport applicant's name; passport number; year of birth; naturalization date; place of residence at the time of the application; approximate year of travel; and your name, mailing (postal) address, and telephone number. Submit the request to:  
Department of State  
Office of Information Resources Management  
515 22nd Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20522-6001  
And then just wait patiently--within six months you could have a treasure trove in your mailbox and answers to your questions! In my case, my great-grandfather wished to visit relatives,

and stayed there for nine months!  
Susan Daily, Missouri

### Browse Special Collections

It was a frustrating day looking for information on my parents' marriage, which took place on Long Island, New York, in the 1930s. Anyway I decided to take a break and randomly cruise the various websites. I decided to browse through the [Hempstead \(New York\) Library Special Collections](#). The Special Collections department is home to numerous older photos of Hempstead. I thought it would be fun to see the places that my parents probably frequented. One of the photos was from 1932 and showed several policemen standing in front of a movie theater. One of the policemen images jumped right out at me. It was my father! My father had served on the force during this period and this was the first photo I had ever seen with him and fellow officers. It was an exciting find--especially since I wasn't even looking for him in any of the photos. A couple of points: One is that browsing can lead to finds. Second, don't forget those special collections in libraries all across the country. Dr. R. S. "Bart" Bartanowicz  
Venice, Florida

## DOWNLOAD FGS CONFERENCE SESSIONS

If you missed out on the many FGS Conference sessions in Boston, you now have a chance to download more than 220 sessions and listen to them at home. These sessions include lectures from the staff members of NARA, the National Archives of England and Wales, the

Library and Archives of Canada, the Archives of the Archdiocese of Boston, and the staff genealogists at NEHGS. Individual sessions can be downloaded for just \$1.99. Special packages of 15 sessions are available for \$25.00.

Once you download the sessions you can listen to them on your computer, iPod, or other MP3 player. The downloads are available at [www.lulu.com/fgs2006](http://www.lulu.com/fgs2006).

## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Genealogy and Special Collections Department at the Denton Public Library has received word that it will receive a grant from Humanities Texas. The grant will be used for building an exhibit for the Denton Sesquicentennial celebration. The exhibit will consist

of photos and text highlighting the 150 years of Denton history. If any of you has historic photographs you would like to contribute to the exhibit, please talk to the library staff in Genealogy.

October began the new fiscal year for the library. If there are books you would like to see in the genealogy collection, bring your requests to Kathy Strauss.



Unidentified onlookers watch a tank with an unidentified uniformed soldier standing on the front on the street on Denton Square. (Denton Public Library, From Plowshares to Diplomas: Digitizing Early Denton History—The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>).

### 2006-2008 OFFICERS

President—Linda Touraine

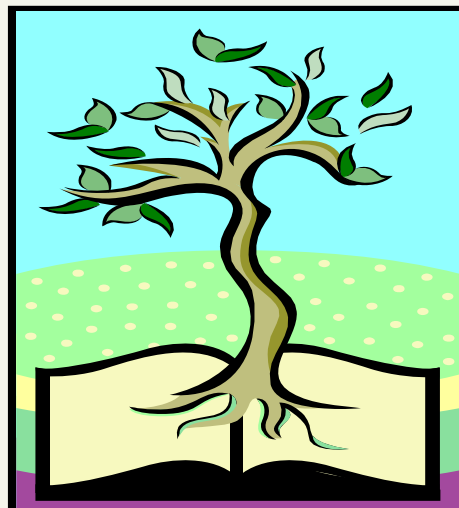
Vice-President—Mel Brewer

Secretary—Vickie Davis

Treasurer—Holly Hervey

Librarian—Kathy Strauss

Webmaster—Chris Strauss



### Welcome to New Members

The Denton County Genealogical Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Cindy Gage  
Sandra Marsh  
Joyce Poole

DENTON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 424707  
Denton, TX 76204