

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

SEPTEMBER MEETING THURSDAY, SEPT 13, 2007



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

Program:

Migration Routes

Speaker: Don Raney

Don Raney is an experienced genealogist and genealogy lecturer. He is an adjunct faculty member at Richland College where he teaches courses in beginning, intermediate and advanced genealogy and business office systems

and support.

Don has been an active genealogist for over 25 years. He served as the Director of the Computer Interest Group of the Dallas Genealogical Society (1996-2000), Director of GENTECH, Inc. (1995-2000), and he is a life member of San Jacinto Descendants. He has lectured at the Dallas Genealogy Society Fall

Symposium, FGS National Conference, GENTECH National Conference, the Institute of Genealogical Studies, and has given lectures at 18 local genealogical societies.

We welcome Don to Denton and look forward to his program.

GENEALOGY AFTER HOURS

The Denton Public Library and the Denton County Genealogical Society will present an evening of genealogy research and classes on 28 September 2007 at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 6:00 PM-11:00 PM.

“Genealogy After Hours” will begin with a pizza supper in the meeting room. During dinner, Patricia Gillespie will speak to us about the indexing projects at familysearch.org. At 7:00 PM, Bill Buckner, manager of the Periodicals/Genealogy Division at the Waco-McLennan County Library will present a Beginning Genealogy

class. At 8:30 PM, Bill will present the program “Gone But Not Forgotten: Cemetery Preservation Through Recording and Documentation.” Please register at the Genealogy Desk at the Emily Fowler Central Library or by calling 940-349-8752. Registration is \$10.00. Please make checks payable to the Denton County Genealogical Society. There will be plenty of time to use the library’s genealogy collection, find one-on-one help from our Society members, and take advantage of the useful electronic resources available in the library.

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ANCESTRY QUICK TIPS

Searching the Old-Fashioned Way

In Michael Neill's article, [Finding James in 1870](#), he says,

"And if all else fails: search the census manually--page by page-- in the area where your relative lived.

In some areas this may be time consuming, but those of us who began our ancestral searches in the days before indexes are probably familiar with this approach. Once in a while we need to return to it.

Manual scanning gives us an idea of the neighborhood and may help us to find relatives disguised as neighbors."

Boy does he have that right! I knew that my Spurgeon (Spurigin) family lived in Union Township, Clark Co., Indiana in 1870. I had found them on previous census tables, and they had several marriages with another branch of my family, the Branhams.

No matter how I set the search, they would not come up! Somehow none of them seem to be living there and yet I knew they had not moved.

I figured I had a couple of choices. I could look up some of their neighbors from the 1850 and 1860 census. (Since they were all farmers hopefully they still worked the same land.) Or, I could look at the alphabetical list of everyone in Union Township, Clark County for all of them--neighbors and family.

Success! Archibald Spurgeon was read by the translator of the handwriting for the electronic index as Surgeme and Branam for Branham. When I then pulled up the copy of the document I could understand how the indexer could come up with that spelling if they were not used to reading this sort of cursive script. Lesson learned--just because they don't come up on the electronic search doesn't mean there were not

there! Sometimes you just have to do it the old-fashioned way!

Aleita Huguenin
Rancho Murieta, California

Reverend Not Necessarily Pastor

In many places there were "reverends" who were licensed or self-proclaimed, and although not pastors of a church, they administered weddings and funerals, besides preaching in many places. If you know the name of the person who performed a wedding or funeral, and he/she was not the pastor of the church, he/she might have been a member of the church. The courthouse or the funeral home might have information about the person.

Roy L. Howard
Retired United Methodist Minister
Chattanooga, Tennessee

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance June 30, 2007

\$ 1,804.37

Funds Deposited

Dues	\$ 15.00
Birth Book	35.00
Void Speaker check	50.00
Death Book	25.00
Interest	29
Total Deposits	\$ 125.29

Funds Disbursed

Consignment Fee	\$ 10.00
Total Disbursed	\$ 10.00

Balance July 31, 2007

\$1,919.66

2006-2007 Paid Members—49

Library Donations

April 1995 - May 02	\$1,994.22
June 2002 - May 03	799.15
June 2003 - May 06	83.15

Birth Books Sold (57)	\$1,845.00
Printing Cost (200)	-2,049.13
Postage	-118.69
Sales Tax Paid	-104.78
Advertising (1)	-30.00
Profit	\$ -457.60

Death Books Sold (140)

	\$3,204.72
Printing Cost (300)	-1,593.15
Consignment Fees	-400.00
Postage	-156.99
Sales Tax Paid	-77.19
Advertising	-237.45
Profit	\$ 739.94

Respectfully Submitted,
Holly Hervey, Treasurer



MINUTES – MAY 2007 MEETING

The Denton County Genealogical Society met in the meeting room of the Emily Fowler Central Library on May 10, 2007. Refreshments were provided by our board members for the 6:30 to 7:00 social time.

Vice - President Mel Brewer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed the 10 other members, who were present. President Linda Touraine was out of town.

Mel presided over the business meeting, during which the minutes and treasurer's report from the April meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. Under old business, Mel mentioned that some members have requested that our meeting place be moved back to the north branch of the library. However, Kathy Strauss told us that the north branch is no longer open on Thursday nights. Holly Hervey reported that the project to transcribe obituaries and funeral home records is ongoing and that she had included the cost of publishing books in the 2008 budget. As the books probably

won't be completed by next year, we might not need to budget for their cost. There was also discussion regarding putting the books on the internet, on CD, or having them published on request. All of these options would save money for the society or allow us to dedicate more of our budget to purchasing books for the library. Mel also suggested that Holly divide up the remaining records among our members to help speed up the project.

Also, under old business we were reminded that it is time to pay our dues. Under new business, there was a brief discussion of the budget, which Holly will rework for membership approval in September. Mel noted that he has four programs arranged for our 2007-08 meetings. Don Raney will present the September program on migration routes, Lloyd Bockstruck has been confirmed for October, Dr. Richard McCasland will present our November program, and John Wylie is scheduled for January.

He will continue the presentation on "What Pros Know – Tips Learned from Working on Other People's Lines" that he began in February. Mel was commended for the quality of our recent programs.

Librarian Kathy Strauss reported on several upcoming programs at the library and mentioned that the library has brochures for Dallas events, as well as some new books. She also reported that the library had good attendance for the May 5 genealogy program.

The meeting concluded with a brief round table discussion among the members present.

Mel adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm in order for us to clear the room before library closing time.

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Davis, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

8 September 2007—Mesquite Historical & Genealogical Society. "Beyond the Basics." Mimosa Lane Baptist Church, 1233 N. Beltline Rd., Mesquite. \$30.00. 214-729-5507.

28 September 2007—Denton County Genealogical Society and the Denton Public Library presents "Genealogy After Hours." \$10 registration. Contact 940-349-8752.

12 October 2007—Burnet County Genealogical Society Seminar with Emily Croom. Contact JoAnn Myers, P.O.Box 1151, Burnet, TX 78611

\$45, Community Center. www.rootsweb.com/~txburnet.

OCTOBER 27, 1007 – VanZandt County Genealogical Society, all day seminar in Canton, TX. Speaker, Trevia Wooster Beverly. Contact treviaawbeverly@comcast.net for more nformation.

9-10 November 2007—Texas State Genealogical Society Conference. www.rootsweb.com/~txsgs.

FGS Conference 2007 Starring: The Allen County Public Library

The 2007 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference took place in Fort Wayne, Indiana, 14-18 August. Attendance was estimated to be about 1, 800 people. Many of the attendees arrived early to take advantage of the newly renovated Allen County Public Library and its massive genealogy collection.

Chris and I did just that. We flew into Columbus, Ohio and rented a car. We visited our families in Columbus one day, and then headed northwest. We stopped for the night in Bowling Green, Ohio so that we could spend the day at Bowling Green State University. The university library has a really good archival collection with the records of northwest Ohio counties. We spent the day reading old newspapers and gleaning genealogy information out of them.

We arrived in Fort Wayne at 2:00 AM Tuesday morning, and were at the library by 10:00 AM. All I can say is WOW!!! The Genealogy Center may be just one of the wonders of this library. The Allen County Public Library sits in its own plaza with plenty of parking above and below ground. The Great Hall runs the length of the building with a skylight dome. There are two floors above ground and two floors below ground. The Genealogy Center takes up the east wing of the building.

The rooms were full of researchers, accessing

books, microfilm, directories, and family histories. There were long lines to use the copiers, and the new microfilm scanners. The center has WiFi, so many people were using their laptops to access the library's electronic resources, as well as scanning and uploading materials. There was great camaraderie among all the researchers. I saw people helping each other out with advice and giving research direction throughout the library. The library was open for the genealogists until midnight on Wednesday and Thursday nights, and many people stayed until the very end. My hat is off to the library staff members who were constantly shelving, giving research help, and keeping a keen sense of humor.

The library hosted Librarians' Day which had a record 187 in attendance. All the classes during the conference were well attended and very interesting. RootsTV.com was there making videos of the conference, and they sponsored Chris Haley (Alex Haley's nephew) who gave a spirited introduction to the conference.

Next year's conference will be held in Philadelphia. If you have never attended a national genealogy conference, you are in for a treat. There are program and exhibits for everyone. Take advantage of the opportunity to attend.

Kathy Strauss



The Great Hall



One of the Genealogy Reference Desks



Genealogists researching their ancestors



DCGS BOARD MEETING MINUTES 23 AUGUST 2007

Present: Linda Touraine, Holly Hervey, Mel Brewer, Diane Abner, Bob McCombs, Kathy Strauss, Chris Strauss, Vickie Davis

Linda convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss our 2007 – 2008 programs and other society business. Linda passed out a list of upcoming meeting dates and scheduled programs. Thus far, programs for the months of March, April, and May have not be scheduled. The board discussed and agreed upon the need for a May program other than the traditional member round table due to the very low attendance this past May.

Mel has contacted one person as a possible speaker for March or April and knows at least one other person who might be available then. Several board members gave suggestions for the May program. After some discussion, it was decided that Kathy will present a program on Emily Fowler that she has given to another group. She will also talk about the library's genealogy resources and provide a layout of the genealogy section.

Linda mentioned the possibility that some members might drop out of the society, if we are not able to move our meetings back to the North Branch. Some members are not happy that we have to put the tables up, but according to Kathy, we would still have to do that at the other branch. Also, the other branch is no longer open on Thursday nights. The board discussed setting up only chairs but decided that the tables are best as long as we continue to have refreshments. We also decided to continue the refreshments, and due to the short notice before our September meeting, the board will provide them, and Linda will ask for volunteers for the remaining meetings.

Holly mentioned that only half of our members have paid their

dues, and Kathy will include a reminder in the newsletter. Holly will also redo the budget and present the revised version at the September meeting. She noted that two of our books were recently purchased at the museum. The board discussed other means of promoting our books, but no consensus was reached.

Another topic of discussion was publicity for our meetings. Linda has sent information on the first three programs to Denton Connection magazine. Mel has been sending notices to the Denton Record Chronicle but has not done so yet for our upcoming meetings.

Kathy discussed the September 28 lock-in, which will feature a guest speaker. Bill Buckner will provide two programs, and the library will be available for research all evening. Details will be provided in the September newsletter.

Linda has numerous society items and asked which of those should be kept and where. Holly noted that periodicals can be given away. Kathy said that she would be able to find a place in her office to store any important items pertaining to the society's history.

Under other business, Linda will print out a current copy of the roster after receiving an updated list of members from Holly. Following Diane's suggestion, the roster will be circulated at the September meeting, and members will be asked to review their information.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Davis

2006-2008 OFFICERS

President—Linda Touraine

Vice-President—Mel Brewer

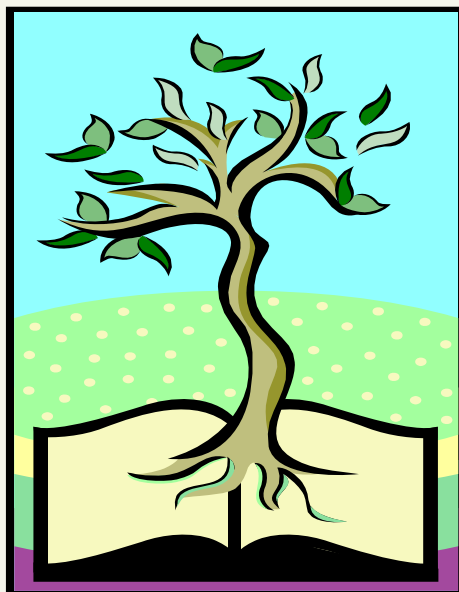
Secretary—Vickie Davis

Treasurer—Holly Hervey

Librarian—Kathy Strauss

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Parliamentarian—Diane Abner



**NEXT MEETING OF
THE DENTON
COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
11 OCTOBER 2007
Speaker: Lloyd
Bockstruck**

**DUES ARE :
\$15 FOR INDIVIDUALS
\$25 FOR COUPLES
PAYABLE IMMEDIATELY**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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