

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 10, 2008



1896- Denton County Courthouse-

Program: “British Migrations to the American Colonies”

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.

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

Native American Research

Are you interested in reconnecting with your Native American Roots? Join us at the **Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, on May 3, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** for “Are Your Ancestors on the Rolls?: The Five Civilized Tribes & Researching Your Native American Genealogy.” Aaron Holt from the National Archives Southwest Region in Fort Worth will be the speaker.

Mr. Holt will provide guidance in researching genealogy in the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, Seminole and Cherokee Nations. He will touch on the laws and treaties that moved the tribes from separate nations within a nation to Citizens of the United States. He will focus on using the U.S. Census, the Dawes Rolls of 1896, the Dawes Final Rolls of 1898-1914, the Guion Miller and Military Records as research tools.

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“Reader’s Banquet” at the Aaron Family Jewish Community Center in Dallas

By Dr. Christopher E. Strauss

DCGS members Dr. Christopher E. Strauss and Jon Stedman traveled to Dallas to attend a joint presentation by author Jon Entine and DNA expert Bennett Greenspan. Entine wrote “Abraham’s Children: Race, Identity, and the DNA of the Chosen People,” and was Tom Brokaw’s producer at NBC News and specialized in documentaries. Greenspan is the founder, president, and CEO of Family Tree DNA, the largest genealogical DNA testing service, in Houston, Texas.

Entine’s presentation focused first on the events in his life that led him to write Abraham’s Children, in which he catalogs the diseases found in people with Ashkenazi (European Jewish) DNA, including those which took the

lives of his mother, aunt, and grandmother. He advocated genetic testing beyond that done for genealogical purposes, with the specific purpose of identifying hereditary disease traits that are passed down within families, especially in populations that have very homogenous genetic pools. He then introduced Bennett Greenspan to discuss DNA testing in general, and genealogical testing specifically.

Greenspan’s presentation detailed the history of Family Tree DNA, and told how his personal quest to prove two families with the same surname and traditions were relatives led him deep into the world of genetic genealogical research. He was able to prove that two people, his cousin

in California and a suspected cousin in Buenos Aires, are directly related; their DNA matched. He then went on to explain the benefits of DNA testing to genealogists, and the types of specific problems or questions that DNA can solve. While not the solution to every brick wall or lack of documentary evidence, it can open doors to completely unexpected research paths by establishing relationships that were completely unknown. In some case, the most important thing it can prove is that two families are not related, and do not share any common ancestor. He closed with a caution; be prepared for surprises when using DNA to investigate family relationships.

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TREASURER’S REPORT

Balance February 29, 2008	\$2,047.03	Library Donations	
		April 1995 - May 02	\$1,994.22
		June 2002 - May 03	799.15
		June 2003 - May 06	83.15
Funds Deposited		Birth Books Sold (58)	\$1,880.00
Dues	\$ 15.00	Printing Cost (200)	-2,049.13
Lock-In Registration	170.00	Postage	-118.69
Interest	<u>.35</u>	Sales Tax Paid	-104.78
Total Deposits	\$ 185.35	Advertising (1)	<u>-30.00</u>
		Profit	\$ -422.60
Funds Disbursed		Death Books Sold (141)	\$3,229.72
NGS Dues	\$ 50.00	Printing Cost (300)	-1,593.15
Lock-in Expenses	<u>74.09</u>	Consignment Fees	-400.00
Total Disbursed	\$ 124.09	Postage	-156.99
		Sales Tax Paid	-77.19
Balance March 31, 2008	\$2,108.29	Advertising	<u>-237.45</u>
		Profit	\$ 764.94
2007-2008 Paid Members—44			

Respectfully Submitted,
Holly Hervey, Treasurer

MINUTES – MARCH 2008

The Denton County Genealogical Society met in the meeting room of the Emily Fowler Central Library on March 13, 2008. Refreshments were provided by Martha Len Nelson and Mona Carrico for the 6:30 to 7:00 social time.

President Linda Touraine called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone. There were 20 present, including two guests and our speaker. Linda presided over the business meeting, during which the minutes from the February meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer Holly Hervey submitted a corrected copy of the treasurer's report, as the one published in the newsletter was for January instead of February. The society's ending balance for February was \$2,047.03. The report was approved as corrected.

Linda mentioned that the society had discussed the purchase of new books for the library but could not remember if this had been done last year. Holly thought it had been several years since we purchased books. Bob McCombs suggested that we defer this discussion to the April meeting after we have received a report from the committee that will research the publication of our birth book. The members present agreed with this motion, and Linda will set up a committee to perform the research.

The University of North Texas has asked for volunteers to search the Portal to Texas History and provide input on its usability for genealogists. Several members volunteered.

The nominating committee met

briefly before tonight's meeting. Marilyn Simms asked if anyone present were interested in serving as an officer. The positions of President, Vice-President, and Secretary need to be filled.

Mel Brewer introduced our guest speaker, Suzanne Sears, who is the Head of the Government Documents Department at the University of North Texas. She was quite informative, and we learned about the many resources available at federal depository libraries.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Davis, Secretary

Findmypast.com

We are all familiar with the popular American subscription websites like Ancestry.com, Heritage Quest, America's Genealogy Bank, and WorldVitalRecords.com. These and similar electronic resources have changed the way we do genealogical research. They allow us to find our ancestors right from home, often in the middle of the night.

For those of you who have British roots, take a look at the British website, Findmypast.com. This website, based in London, England contains over 550 million family history records. Formerly

named 1837online.com, this resource allows free searching, as well as building a family tree.

Findmypast.com is a subscription based website with three subscription options, as well as pay-per-view options.

In association with the British National Archives, the website contains Passenger Lists for all ships leaving the UK from 1890-1960.

Give this website a try, you may be surprised to find your ancestors there.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Giving of your time, talent, and treasure are ways to make a difference in your community. In our busy world, it is sometimes difficult to find a free hour, but if you find yourself with time, consider coming in to help the Special Collections staff with a project. There are many different things to do, and I promise you won't be bored. Learn to do some indexing, data input, scanning, preservation, or finding interesting articles within old newspapers. We love volunteers, and your work will give you the satisfaction of doing your part to preserve the history of the community.

If you are interested in honoring one of your ancestors, memorializing a loved one who you have lost, or remembering a friend, consider donating a book to the genealogy collection. The library staff can work with you to choose a book that will be useful to genealogists. You can also give a book or periodicals from your own collection to be placed in the library. A special bookplate will be placed inside the book acknowledging your gift, and you will receive a letter from the library to document the donation. The Special Collections librarian has a wish list of

books that can be added.

Another idea that you may want to consider for making a donation to the library is to adopt a book currently in the Special Collections that needs to be preserved or is in need of binding. Donations of this kind will be acknowledged with a letter and a bookplate. The funds will be used to purchase supplies to best preserve the material, i.e., phase or clamshell box, bindery costs, or acid-free binder.

Our collection of Denton Record Chronicle microfilm is aging. Some of the reels have developed vinegar syndrome and many of the reels have become brittle. We will be replacing reels as they are identified, and with what funds we have available. Each reel costs \$125.00 to replace. Funds for the upkeep of the microfilm collection will be acknowledged in the same way as book donations.

Your suggestions of materials to be placed in the Special Collections are always welcome. If you would like to see more materials from a specific area of the U.S. or from outside the U.S., please let the Special Collections staff know of your needs.

Budgets can only be stretched so far, and any donations will be appreciated and put to good use.

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When Jon returned to the podium, he took us on a tour of the recent discoveries in Jewish genealogical research that DNA-based investigations have made possible. Researchers have used DNA to establish that most of the Cohanim (Jewish priests – supposedly all descended from Aaron) scattered all over the world are in fact related genetically. They have also been able to confirm some “lost tribes of Israel” traditions in Africa and India, while disproving others. They have even been able to establish that Catholic Hispanics in New Mexico are in fact descendents of Sephardic Jews from Spain who were forced to covert during the pre-inquisition persecutions. These families had fled to the Americas when even “conversos” began to face persecution during the inquisition.

Entine's book contains a thorough compilation of recorded Jewish history and tradition, including all of the contradictions, overlaid with the recent genetic research that supports some of that history with scientific evidence. I have to say, it was easier to read and understand the genetic material than several other DNA and genealogy titles that I have been reading this year. The amount of Jewish history is a little overwhelming for the uninitiated, but if you are one of those who through testing have found that you possess Ashkenazi or Sephardic markers hidden in your DNA, or if you know that one of your lines is descended from the Israelites, then this book is a must-read.

ANCESTRY QUICK TIPS

Labeling Electronic Images

When scanning in old family photos to share with the family, I add the information, such as name, place, and date, to the border of the print. I use an image editing program to do this. If the photo does not have a border, I create one. If a person wants to print the photo and does not want the information it is easy to crop off, but by keeping the label, the photo and identification will not be separated.

Diane

External Hard Drive--Worth It

The cost of purchasing an external hard drive is out-weighted by the many hours, pictures, memories, and information that could be lost should your computer crash. I back up to both drives each time I work on my family tree. It is an inexpensive insurance policy.

Adrene Tomie

Lethbridge, Alberta

Share Family Bibles with Historical Societies

I live in the state of Virginia and often make use of the resources of the Library of Virginia in person and online. Among the resources available are photographic copies of the family records sections of family Bibles. The Library does not explain the source for these copies on their website so I finally contacted them about this.

I had previously thought that they only posted family record information from Bibles which were part of their collection. It turns out that they can photograph your Bible for the records and return it to the family.

I would suggest to your readers that they contact their local historical societies and state libraries in an effort to share their family information. This would also act as a "backup" to an

individual's family information should anything happen to the original Bible.

Thanks for allowing me to make a suggestion,
Ed Miller

Reviewing Your Genealogy Report

Once in a while I will go to one of my ancestors' page and with that person selected I click on "View," "Reports," and "Genealogy Report" in my Family Tree Maker database just to see how it reads. I have found that as I am reading through it, I find omissions or items out of sequence, such as sequence of marriages of a person might be out of order, then I jot them down and go back and fill in the corrections which will put that event or item in correctly. It also helps me find items that I can pursue which I may have overlooked before.

Note: You will not be able to correct the item on the report page, you must return to the actual entry page of the person you need to correct.

Karen Shear

Browse the Whole Register

When you're looking at records that are in register form, be sure to browse through the entire register, whether in print or on microfilm. I was looking for my great-grandparents' marriage record and had gone through all of the S names. As I scrolled through the remainder of the microfilm, after the letter Z, I found several letters (including S) had pages that were started at the end of the book. They must have run out of room on the pages set aside for those letters and since it was in a bound book, they started new pages at the end of the register.

Sylvia Shorn

2006-2008 OFFICERS

President—Linda Touraine

Vice-President—Mel Brewer

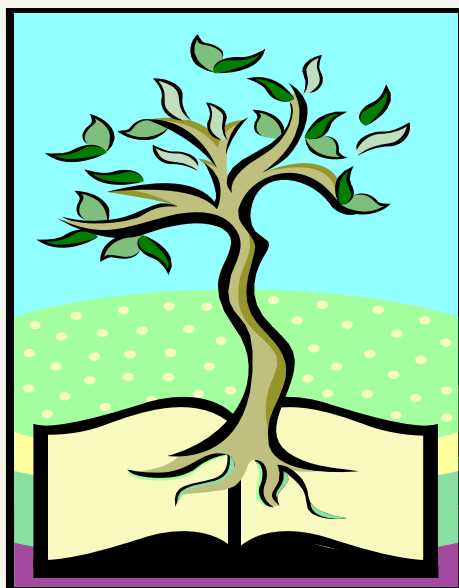
Secretary—Vickie Davis

Treasurer—Holly Hervey

Librarian—Kathy Strauss

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Parliamentarian—Diane Abner



**NEXT MEETING OF
THE DENTON
COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
MAY 8, 2008
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

**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**

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