

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

JANUARY MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009



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: "Genealogy Computer Software Programs"

Speakers: Chris Strauss and Marilyn Simms

Many of us have turned to the computer to assist us with genealogy in many ways. Genealogy software programs are amazing resources to help us manage our research. They can display our ancestors by

generation, create family group sheets, provide a place to document our sources, allow us to scan documents and pictures, and create reports to share with family members.

programs, and give a tour through Legacy Family Tree. DCGS member, Marilyn Simms will speak about the most popular software, Family Tree Maker.

For our January program, Denton County Genealogical Society member, Dr. Chris Strauss, will provide us with an overview of the more popular software



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Program: "Genealogy Computer Software Programs"	1
Genealogy New Year's Resolutions	
Minutes	2
Treasurer's Report	
News from the Library	3
Genealogy in America Online Exhibits on the NEHGS Website	4
Ancestry Quick Tips	5

GENEALOGY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

- I will gather information from my family.
- I will document all my sources.
- I will identify dates and people in photos, and write down the information on the back of the photograph.
- I will remember that not all genealogical information is available on the Internet.
- I will attend a genealogy workshop to enhance my knowledge.
- I will volunteer time to my local library or archive to assist with projects that will be useful to other researchers.
- I will learn about new electronic resources with genealogical information.
- I will read a history of the county where my ancestors lived.
- I will write an article about my research for the genealogy newsletter.
- I will share my research with my family.

MINUTES—NOVEMBER 2008

The Denton County Genealogical Society met in the Emily Fowler Library meeting room for our November meeting.

Refreshments were provided by Norma Curry and Mona Carrico.

The program began at 7:00 PM, with President Linda Touraine calling the meeting to order. Our visitors, Dayone Work, Leslie Thompson, and Kim Wright were welcomed. We had 23 in attendance, including our speaker.

No old business.

Anyone interested in bringing something for the table to share with

the group should sign up with Marilyn Simms.

If you choose to get the newsletter by mail, please contact Kathy Strauss.

The library will hold a lock-in in February.

Marilyn Simms introduced our speaker for the evening. Mr. John Wylie gave an interesting presentation entitled “Pig In A Poke-Misleading, Misunderstood and Misused Resources”.

Our January 8th meeting will be about computer software

programs.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris



TREASURER’S REPORT

Balance Oct. 31, 2008	\$2,204.12		
Funds Deposited		Birth Books Sold (59)	\$1,915.00
Dues	\$ 15.00	Printing Cost (200)	-2,049.13
Interest	<u>.82</u>	Postage	-118.69
Total Deposits	\$ 15.82	Sales Tax Paid	-104.78
		Advertising (1)	<u>-30.00</u>
Funds Disbursed		Profit	\$ -387.60
Speaker Fee	\$ 75.00	Death Books Sold (141)	\$3,254.72
Copies	7.00	Printing Cost (300)	-1,593.15
Postage	<u>42.00</u>	Consignment Fees	-400.00
Total Disbursed	\$ 124.00	Postage	-156.99
		Sales Tax Paid	-77.19
Balance Nov 30, 2008	\$2,095.94	Advertising	<u>-237.45</u>
		Profit	\$ 789.94
2008-2009 Paid Members—49			
Library Donations		Respectfully Submitted,	
April 1995 - May 06	\$2,876.52	Holly Hervey, Treasurer	
June 2006 – June 08	500.00		

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Preservation Grant

The Denton Public Library Special Collection has received notification from the National Endowment for the Humanities that it has been awarded a preservation grant of approximately \$6,000. The funds will be used to purchase supplies to re-house many of our fragile books in phase boxes, buy archival pamphlet binders, map folders, and many other items. These efforts will help preserve the valuable documents and historical items in our collection, and make them better accessible to researchers.

NewspaperARCHIVE

The Denton Public Library has recently acquired a new electronic resource.

NewspaperARCHIVE.com contains tens of millions of searchable newspaper pages, dating as far back as the 1700s. It is the gateway to searching and reading historical newspapers

online. This valuable research tool is a unique primary resource. It is available for use inside the library as well as from home with a Denton Public Library card and PIN number.

Upcoming Programs

Genealogy: The Basics

Learn how to gather family information, use genealogical forms, organize your research, access vital records, locate census records, and more!

January 31, 2009 – 10:00 AM – Noon, Emily Fowler Central Library

Online Resources

An introduction to the library's genealogical databases, including: Ancestry Library Edition, Heritage Quest, and America's Genealogy Bank.

February 7, 2009 – 10:00 AM – Noon, Emily Fowler Central Library

Genealogy After-Hours

Genealogists, here's your chance to do hours of uninterrupted research in the library. In addition to a guest speaker, we will have one-on-one research help and a light dinner. There is a \$10.00 registration fee for the evening. Checks should be made payable to the Denton County Genealogical Society. This event is co-sponsored by the Denton Public Library and the Denton County Genealogical Society. To register, or for more information, contact Laura Douglas at 940-349-8749 or laura.douglas@cityofdenton.com.

February 27, 2009 – 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM, Emily Fowler Central Library

LIBRARY STAFF MEMBERS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS-PAST



Kathy Strauss



Laura Douglas



Leslie Couture



Linda Touraine

GENEALOGY IN AMERICA

by Kathy Strauss

Lori Nalley recently pointed out an article of interest for inclusion in our genealogy newsletter. The article, “Charting a Hobby: Tracing the Emergence of Genealogy in America,” by Maureen Taylor was published in the *American Spirit* (DAR) magazine in the January/February 2008 issue. This short article chronicles the development of genealogy research in America. Taylor describes how European genealogies were focused more on “pedigrees and hereditary titles, which were needed to prove inheritance.” American genealogists concerned themselves more with tracing their family history back to their immigrant ancestor. The first family genealogy that was published in America was by Roger Clap. It contains a section that relates to his family and the immigrant ancestor.

During the 19th century, an interest in historical preservation emerged. Out of this movement came many of the historical and genealogical societies that we still have today. The New England

Historic Genealogical Society was created 163 years ago by people from this movement. These groups of people worked to collect and preserve historical documents, vital records, town records, and histories. The 1824 *Genealogical Register of the First Settlers of New England*, by John Farmer, was one of the first publications to create a biographical reference of prominent citizens of the early colonies.

Also out of this movement came the realization that family history, to be a serious discipline, must follow specific rules and each source must be documented. Evidence Explained, the detailed tome by Elizabeth Shown Mills is indicative of how much these pioneers in historic preservation influenced our study of genealogy. We are constantly cautioned to cite sources, analyze evidence, and write research logs. Just like earlier family and local historians, we need to keep in mind how important it is to preserve what we find for future generations.

ONLINE EXHIBITS ON THE NEHGS WEBSITE

The newenglandancestors.org website is a treasure trove of genealogy and items of historical interest. What you may not have realized, the website also has online exhibits from the library’s manuscript collection. One of particular interest during this time of year is the Holiday Family Recipe exhibit. To find the exhibit, go to newenglandancestors.org, find the library tab at the top of the page and click on “Online Exhibits.” Choose exhibits from the 19th century, and enjoy examples from the nearly 900 recipes from various family collections.

Many of the recipes fall in the

dessert category, with cake, cookies, and pudding recipes being the most popular. Johnny cakes and pickling recipes are a close second. Many of the women wrote their recipes in small notebooks or in the back of a husband’s account book or diary. It’s not uncommon to find pasted newspaper clippings of household hints or published recipes alongside a handwritten one. Family cookbooks often contain homemade remedies for treating illnesses such as coughs or rheumatism and recipes for household cleaners.

Enjoy browsing through this exhibit. I found it fascinating. Perhaps you have sampled such

recipes in your youth, or perhaps your family has handed down favorite recipes for special dishes or desserts that you have tasted at family get-togethers. Think about writing down these recipes to share with your family.



ANCESTRY QUICK TIPS

Searching for Marriages

When searching for a marriage, I often find entering too much info into a search can result in thousands of results to sort through. To avoid this, first, try entering only the couple's surname and the wife's maiden name; if you still have too many returns, add a location and/or date.

Similarly, if you want to find unknown siblings, use advanced search option and enter the surname and mother's maiden name and location, I have found this particularly useful.

Peter Murphy

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#) site has details of all British and Commonwealth servicemen killed in action during World War I and World War II and often has details of next of kin. I found my great uncle on the site—someone I never knew fought in World War I. I also found one of my wife's relatives who was killed during World War II.

Phil

Hythe, Southampton UK

Try Parents' Names in Birth Searches

Having difficulty locating those elusive relatives in death certificate indexes? Try entering the father's surname or mother's maiden name in the search box. I have found many missing female relatives this way even when their married name is unknown. I have been searching the [North Carolina Death Certificates, 1909-75](#). Most of these certificates give both parents' names. And don't forget to look at the actual image. There is a wealth of information not listed in the index.

Michelle Woodham

Shreveport, Louisiana

Combine Middle and Last Names

I would like to add that it is possible to add the middle and last name when searching. In the case of my great-grandfather whose name was Thomas Fitz Martin in later years he is listed as Fitzmartin. Hope this will help someone.

Bern

Census Browsing Tip

When I couldn't locate my ancestors from Belgium in the 1900 Moore County, North Carolina census (where I knew them to be living at that time), I accessed the actual census pages and began scrolling through. I looked down the "Country of origin" column for Belgium and found them that way. The spelling of the name was unusual so I hadn't been able to find them by just putting in their name. Of course, this could work also if one's relative was born in another state rather than country.

Thank you for the tips. Some have been so helpful.
Beverly Hall, North Carolina

Reach Out and Share

I currently have several family researchers who share ancestors with me. When any of us has hit a brick wall, often one or more of us can make that wall disappear. In the hunt for "official" records, we often forget that records in the hands of family members can be of equal or greater significance. Plus the family stories add dimension and have more to do with heritage than just names, dates, and places.

Recently I did a favor for a distant cousin (we share the same third-great-grandmother). I live near an area where one of his ancestors settled, lived, and died. I took a short trip for him to document the family burial plot. I was able to find the plot and share pictures with him.

Encourage your readers to reach out to other family researchers and share. It is a great way to pay it forward.
Deborah Martin-Plugh

New Use for Old Buffet

A few weeks back, [Sally talked about repurposing an old entertainment center](#). I took an old buffet and used the bottom for storage. Taking the doors off gave me room for binders and wicker baskets (large) which made attractive files for folders. (I was already using the entertainment center for books on genealogy.) It really helps to have everything in one location and neat.

Bev Shepherd

2008-2009 OFFICERS

President—Linda Touraine

Vice-President—Marilyn Simms

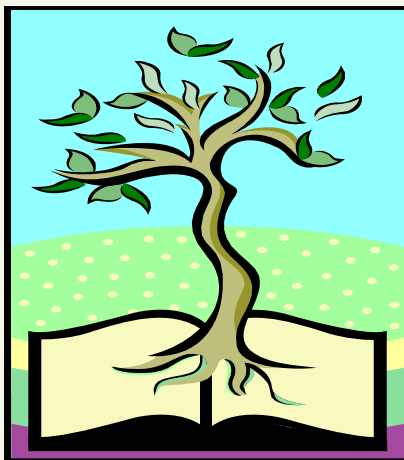
Secretary—Shirley Harris

Treasurer—Holly Hervey

Librarian—Kathy Strauss

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Parliamentarian—Diane Abner



**NEXT MEETING OF
THE DENTON
COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
February 12, 2009
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

**DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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