

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

NOVEMBER MEETING THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2017



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.genealogydentontexas.org

Program: “The Stedman Story: Mystery, Intrigue, Adoption and DNA: Jewish Genealogy Strategies Unravel a Family Mystery

Speaker: Karen Franklin

This is a true life story involving mystery, bigamy, adoption and DNA. The secretive life of Jesse Oppenheimer, alias John Stedman (1887-1950) was unraveled using family research techniques that are useful to all genealogists. In this talk, Karen will reflect on the trajectory of research beginning with his son, Jon Stedman (1933-2009), whose papers she was hired to organize five years ago. Though his DNA was tested in 2001, an upgrade in 2013 helped an adopted child find her birth mother, and a child conceived by in-vitro fertilization almost 40 years ago, who is now working to find his birth father. Analysis of Jon’s papers and a description of strategies developed to move forward on the project highlight the changing nature of family history research.

Karen Franklin is the director of family research at the Leo Baeck Institute, chair of the Memorial Museums Committee of ICOM (the International Council of Museums) and president of the Obermayer German Jewish History Awards. She is Co-chair of the Board of Governors of JewishGen, a past president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, and has been an active leader, lecturer, and author in the field of museums, genealogy and looted art. Karen is a world renowned expert on German Jewish Genealogy, She has also given presentations illustrating “how to” sessions with southern (American Jewish) families. Families from Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina are among those she has researched. Recently, she lectured in France, Germany, Austria, Colorado and Los Angeles (on other topics). Past subjects have included: Josephine Marcus (common law wife of Wyatt Earp).

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow members:

We've had some great presentations in our first two meetings this year. The information that's becoming available to us on the internet is increasing dramatically. However, not only do we have much more digitized information available, we have many more tools available to work with that proliferation of data. If you've found "a tool" that has helped you with your research that you think would be helpful to our members, please contact our Program Chairperson, Perry Abernethy about giving a presentation about it at one of our meetings after the first of the year.

Our November speaker is Karen Franklin. She will be speaking about: The Stedman Story: Mystery, Intrigue, Adoption and DNA - Jewish Genealogy Strategies Unravel a Family Mystery. Further information is given below.

Please bring YOUR stories about your research and the results you've found, the walls you've come up against and climbed, the memories you discovered, and those new trails you've gone down with your new DNA matches.

As usual, if you are new to our group, I would urge you to explore the numerous resources available at, or provided by the City of Denton Public Library. As they always have been, the staff is very helpful with any questions you may have.

Be sure and read the rest of this newsletter for the latest information on upcoming genealogical events, and also check the City of Denton Public Library web site. Be sure and pick up the latest Classes & Events pamphlet published by the Denton Public Library. These are available in several areas of the library.

Genealogy's Often-Misspelled Words

Genealogy – No, it is not spelled “geneology” nor is it spelled in the manner I often see: “geneaology.” That last word looks to me as if someone thought, “Just throw all the letters in there and hope that something sticks.” For some reason, many newspaper reporters and their editors do not know how to spell this word. Don't they have spell checkers?

Cemetery – The letter “a” does not appear anywhere in the word “cemetery.” You can remember the spelling by an old saying, “We go to the cemetery with E's.” (ease)

Ancestor – This simple word is often spelled “ancester,” “ansester,” or “ansestor.”

Ancestry – This word is often misspelled “ancestory.” I often see errors when someone is referring to the ancestry.com online web site as “ancestory.com.”

History – More than once I have seen someone refer to their “family histroy” or “family histry.”

Descent – Perhaps not as common, but I have seen this spelled as “decent,” which sounds almost the same.

Descendant – it often appears as descendent, descentent and many others.

Grantor versus Grantee – In land records, the grantor is the one who sells or gives (grants) the land while the grantee is the one who receives.

Copyright – Then there is Copyright versus Copywrite. Just

remember that it is always **right** to copy, not write to copy.

Progenitor – I can never remember how to spell this word. I simply try to avoid it when I am writing!

Two other words often are confused: **immigrant** and **emigrant**. Another variation is immigration versus emigration. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary at <http://www.merriam-webster.com>, an emigrant is “a person who leaves a country or region to live in another one” while an immigrant is “a person who comes to a country to live there.” To repeat, an **emigrant leaves** while an **immigrant arrives**.

The late Dick Pence was quite a storyteller, and once he told of an online genealogy article he wrote in which he poked fun at common spelling errors by genealogists. He deliberately misspelled **tendifferent** words in the article, including most of the words I listed above. In the text of the article, he never mentioned that the article was a tongue-in-cheek attempt at humor.

Dick soon received an email message from an irate lady who apparently didn't realize it was a deliberate attempt at humor. She scolded him for his spelling errors, writing, “Mr. Pence, you should be ashamed of yourself. I am an English teacher and I want to tell you that I found **seven** spelling errors in your article!”

Source: *Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter*

OCTOBER 2017 MINUTES

Terry Brantley called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Nineteen members were in attendance. There were no visitors.

Vickie Whitfield advised there were 21 members and 7 visitors present at the September 14, 2017 meeting. Dayonne Work made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes as presented in the newsletter. Walta Evans seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Jane Ingram made a motion to approve the Treasurers report as presented in the newsletter. Carol Brantley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Laura Douglas announced the State-Wide Genealogy Lock-In is scheduled for October 20, 2017 from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm at the Emily Fowler Library. The doors will be locked at 6:00pm. However, a phone number will be posted at the door for late comers to call for admittance. Registration is required for the evening meal. Family History volunteers will be available to assist those who need any help. Genealogy Expo Frisco is scheduled for November 18 at 9:00 am. The library will have a table and Terry will bring copies of the available books for sale. Others are welcome to join them.

Walta announced Genealogy Expo Plano is scheduled for Saturday October 14, 2017.

NEWBIE SESSION: Carolyn Brantley told of recent discoveries when she went to Oregon, IL for 75th birthday celebration for her high school classmates. She was able to find her mother's childhood home as well as the house where her mother was born in 1919. The current

homeowners gave her a painting of the farm house and barn as well as a 2007 aerial view of the farm. She also found several ancestors grave sites.

Julie Avedikian presented the program on how to use the DAR Genealogical Records System for genealogy research. She provided printed instructions for use of the website "dar.org". Through this website she has discovered she is a 9th cousin of Tim McGraw as well as finding other ancestors. Julie demonstrated how lots information can be found. Only documented information can be entered into their databases. Female as well as male searches are available. Full or partial names can be searched. DAR enters only one spelling for each family name, therefore making it necessary to search partial names for many families. At this time DAR only accepts Y DNA information. They will accept Paternity test results. In 1913, a committee of DAR members started recording information for the Society. The state listed is the home state of the person submitting the records, not where an ancestor ad lived. DAR has some books that cannot be found elsewhere. The newsletters from 1890 to 2013 are available on the website.

Dayonne announced the November program presenter is from New York and will speak about Jewish research. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Ingram, Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Oct. 1, 2017 **\$2,397.88**

Deposits:

Dues, 2017-2018 \$30.00

Total Income: **\$30.00**

Disbursements:

October Program \$75.00

Total Disbursements **\$75.00**

Balance Oct. 31, 2017 **\$2,352.88**

2017-2018 Paid Members – 28

Library Donations

April 1995 – May 2006 \$2,876.52

June 2006 – June 2012 \$3,310.00

July 2012 – October, 2017 \$1,961.34

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Touraine, Treasurer



Scroll through Colonial life with the Harvard Library

This should be a fabulous resource for anyone researching Colonial American ancestry. It isn't a genealogy database. Instead, it will teach you about the lives your ancestors led and the world in which they lived.

In a few weeks, the Harvard Library will release a new website for its ongoing, multiyear digitization "Colonial North American Project at Harvard University." Approximately 450,000 digitized pages of all the known archival and manuscript materials in the Library relating to 17th- and 18th-century North America will be available to the public. The library's vast collection from era, from love letters to

receipts, is being digitized for public view. Launched in November 2015 with 150,000 images, the online collection documents life in the European colonies of the Americas and Caribbean, as well as in Great Britain, continental Europe, and Africa. These extraordinary materials enable viewers to see through the eyes of the influencers and common folk of the era, providing insights not only about revolution and politics but also economics, science, society, and much more.

You can view many images from this future online collection in the *Harvard Gazette* at <http://bit.ly/2yEkGHI>.

Ancestor Network Moves to Establish Branch in Northern Ireland

Because of growing demand from people of the Irish Diaspora with Ulster roots, as well as demand from solicitor firms and heir hunting firms for specialist genealogical researchers in the six counties, Ancestor Network Ltd (www.ancestor-network.ie) has announced today the establishment of its Northern Ireland branch and the opening of its new Belfast office (www.ancestor-network.co.uk). The branch is headed by Michael Rooney, a native of Northern Ireland, who is the Permanent Representative and Lead Genealogist for Ancestor Network in Belfast. The registered address of the Northern Ireland branch is 138 University Street, Belfast, BT71HJ, Northern Ireland.

Ancestor Network is the first Irish genealogy research, advisory and publishing company to establish offices in both the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland.

John Hamrock, Managing Director of Ancestor Network, commented, "We are delighted to establish our branch in Northern Ireland. We have assisted many customers with Ulster roots in tracing their ancestors and in discovering their Irish heritage over the years and Michael Rooney has been an integral part of our team. Now is a perfect time to establish a branch in Northern Ireland to help our customers

both here and abroad in a more personal and localized way. Our services range from genealogy advice, research, tourism and education, and publishing."

Michael Rooney, Permanent Representative and Lead Genealogist of the Belfast branch, said, "Ancestor Network is perfectly positioned in Northern Ireland to assist locals and people from abroad in genealogy research and advice. We are also extending our probate genealogy research to Northern Ireland to assist law firms and heir hunting firms locally in professional research assignments. In addition, we have recently introduced new enhancements to the free 'Ancestor Network' app to assist researchers with helpful information about all the key Northern Irish genealogical and historical research archives, libraries and museums. We also aim to extend the range of Flyleaf Press books on tracing ancestors in Ireland to include the Ulster counties that experienced mass emigration over the years."



NEWS AND PROGRAMS FROM THE LIBRARY

Denton County Genealogical Society

Meet fellow genealogists, share tips, & learn new information.

Thu Emily Fowler 6:30 p.m

11/09 “The Stedman Story: Mystery, Intrigue, Adoption and DNA – Jewish Genealogy Strategies Unravel a Family Mystery” by Karen Franklin

01/11 The First-Landowners Map Project and Upcoming Research Tools from HistoryGeo.com presented by Greg Boyd

02/08 Exploration and Discovery: FamilySearch & Ancestry Home Pages presented by Walta Evans

UNT Local Music History Harvest

Help preserve Denton’s music heritage at this free community event hosted by the Local / Independent Music Initiative of Texas. We ask music fans and collectors to bring in photos, posters, and other flat music memorabilia 8.5” x 11” in size or smaller to be digitized. For more information, email limit@unt.edu.

Sat. 12/02 Emily Fowler 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Introducing the Memory Maker Space Digital Conversion Lab

Photographs, home movies, and paper documents are an important part of an individual’s history but analog and paper materials degrade over time. Learn about the new self-service digital conversion lab that provides users with the tools and the training to digitize their materials independently. The overview will cover the equipment and software in the lab and answer general questions about lab use. Registration requested.

Sat. 01/13 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

Beginning Genealogy

Learn the basics of genealogy research in this

introductory class. Topics include: gathering family information, using genealogical forms, accessing vital records, locating census records, and using the resources available in the Emily Fowler Special Collections. Registration requested.

Fri 01/19 Emily Fowler 10 a.m.

Freedman Town 2.0

Carla LynDale Carter-Bishop will discuss *Freedman Town 2.0*, an interactive documentary which utilizes Augmented Reality to tell the rich history of Denton’s black community. This documentary uses landmarks and photographs of community members to activate short videos that tell untold stories about Freedman Town, the first black settlement in Denton, Quakertown, and Southeast Denton. This project was created by college students in UNT’s department of Media Arts in a summer course taught by Ms. Carter-Bishop.

Sat 02/03 Emily Fowler 3:30 p.m.

To Have and To Hold: Marriage Records As a Link to Your Ancestors

Marriage records are considered the oldest of the vital records. This presentation by Kathy Strauss, will consider the jurisdictions governing these records, the types of marriage records available, and how to locate these records. Registration requested.

Sat 02/17 Emily Fowler 3 p.m.

What’s So Special about Special Collections?

Take a tour and discover the Genealogy, Denton History, and Texas History resources we have to help you with your research. Registration requested.

Thu 02/22 Emily Fowler 7 p.m.

2016-2018 OFFICERS

President—Terry Brantley

Vice-President—Perry Abernethy

Secretary—Jane Ingram

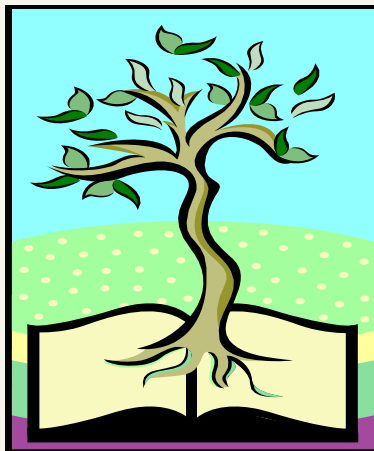
Treasurer—Linda Touraine

Librarian—Laura Douglas

Webmaster—Chris Strauss

Membership—Vickie Whitfield

Newsletter Editor—Kathy Strauss



**NEXT MEETING OF THE
DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY WILL BE ON
JAN 11, 2018
Emily Fowler Central
Library
502 Oakland St.
Denton**

DENTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201