

# 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

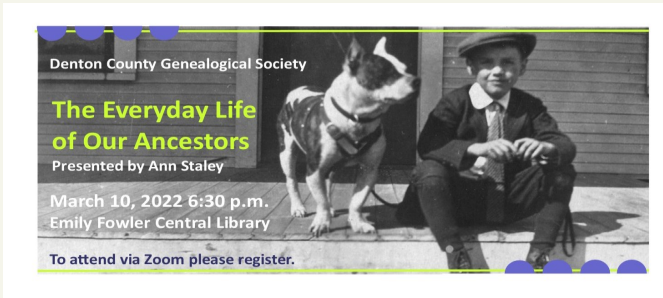
## MARCH MEETING



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



The Denton County Genealogical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2022. Our speaker will be joining us via Zoom. Social time will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, followed by the monthly business meeting which will begin at 7 p.m. The program will begin about 7:15 p.m. You can attend either via Zoom or in person, masks should be worn, and social distancing maintained.

The program for the night is “The Everyday Life of Our Ancestors” presented by Ann Staley. Our ancestors led lives, just like us – only different. Using our life as an example, how can we parallel it to theirs? They ate and drank, married and had families, dressed, had trades and occupations, practiced a religion, dabbled in the arts and sciences, participated in politics and economics, etc. This lecture will examine the various aspects of life and provide resources to discover the historical context and personal details of our ancestors’ lives. Topics will include; placing our ancestor in a timeline, finding historical context, home life, weather and the Farmer’s Almanac, ancestral photographs, postcards, etc, what your ancestors wore, court records, occupations, events of the day, and much more.

C. Ann Staley, CG(R), CGLSM, instructor, consultant, and a lecturer at local, state, and national conferences. Raised in Mobile, AL, she has been researching her family since 1980 from Alabama, Mississippi, Indiana,

and Virginia to France, England, and Germany.

She is kept busy as the Education Chairman for the Jacksonville Genealogical Society, Inc.; the Vice President of the Genealogical Speakers Guild; on the faculty of The National Institute for Genealogical Studies; and as a volunteer of the Florida State Genealogical Society. Ann is also the compiler of the Jacksonville Genealogical Society, Inc. Quarterly Full Name Index, Volumes 1 through 4, 1973 through 1976, the author of articles for the NGS Magazine, and the co-author of the NGS Research in the States Series: Florida.

She has studied at the National Institute on Genealogical Research (NIGR) in Washington, D.C.; the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama; and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy in Salt Lake City, Utah. She has also been a faculty member of IGHR. Her specialties are methodology, research sources, computer resources, vital record resources, and conference planning. Ann’s enthusiasm for genealogy is contagious and her stimulating programs are very informative.

Visitors are welcome. If you are not a member of the DCGS and would like to attend, please register at: <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/events/62117fa91157de4100ea36a8> by Wednesday, March 9, 6 p.m. to receive and invitation email to the Zoom event. If you would like to attend in person, please join us at Emily Fowler Library.

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## PRESIDENT’S ARTICLE

Hello, Everyone,

Our March 10 meeting is scheduled to be a hybrid meeting. Social time starts at 6:30 pm for those attending in person at the Emily Fowler Library. The business meeting and program will start at 7 pm. The Zoom meeting join link will be emailed to all dues-paying members a couple of days before the meeting.

Our February program was truly special. Not only did it expand on last year’s presentation about Blacksmithing on the Texas Frontier: Historic Archeology at the Tom Cook Blacksmith Shop in Bolivar, Denton County, Texas, but we also had two special guests besides the speaker, Douglas Boyd of Austin. Howard Clark is a descendant of Tom Cook, and Kelly Kring is a modern-day blacksmith. Both of them added interesting insights to the program.

I want to recognize our Program Committee led by Beth Leggieri for all the informative and enjoyable programs we have. Believe it or not, it is almost time to be scheduling speakers for our meetings in September, October, and November. Please share your program ideas with Beth and her team, and don’t miss an opportunity to complete and submit the after-program survey they provide each month.

Stay well and stay safe. I look forward to being together again at our next meeting.

Joe Spears  
 Email: [presidentdcs@gmail.com](mailto:presidentdcs@gmail.com)



## TREASURER’S REPORT

**Balance Jan. 31, 2022** **\$3,087.23**

**Deposits:**

None

Total Deposits: \$ 0.00

**Disbursements:**

Memorial – Mona Carrico \$50.00  
 [Alamagardo Pub. Lib., NM]

Total Disbursements: \$50.00

**Balance Feb. 28, 2022** **\$3,037.23**

2021-2022 Paid Members – 48

Library Donations  
 April 1995 – May 2006 \$2,876.52  
 June 2006 – June 2012 \$3,310.00  
 July 2012 – January 2022 \$2,925.53

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Linda Touraine, Treasurer,



## FEBRUARY 2022 MINUTES

President Joe Spears called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. He called on Donna Spears, Membership Chairperson, to introduce visitors. There were 25 members present (19 in person at Emily Fowler Public Library and 6 attending by Zoom). Four guests, including the presenter, were in attendance.

The motion to approve the January, 2022 Minutes as published in the Newsletter was made by Beth Leggieri and seconded by Bob Lane. Motion passed. There were no questions about the Treasurer's Report as published in the Newsletter, and it was filed for audit.

### Old Business

There was no Old Business.

### New Business

Bob Lane made a motion, seconded by Linda Touraine, to donate \$50 in memory of long-time member Mona Searcy Carrico to the Alamogordo, NM Public Library. Motion passed unanimously.

President Spears said a Nominating Committee is needed to report a slate of five officers at the April, 2022, meeting to be voted on by the membership.

The two Board members are Beth Leggieri and Sandra Robertson. Two at large members are Marian Carroll and Arthur Medrano. Motion to accept this Nominating Committee passed unanimously.

### Announcements

The next meeting is March 10, 2020, with speaker Ann Staley presenting "Everyday Life of our Ancestors."

### Program

Beth Leggieri introduced Douglas Boyd who presented "Blacksmithing on the Texas Frontier: Historic Archeology at the Tom Cook Blacksmith Shop in Boliver, Denton County, Texas.

The President adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m. on the motion by Carol Brantley which was seconded by Beth Leggieri.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Robertson, Secretary



## LiveStory VIDEO EXPLAINS the NEW OFFERING FROM MyHeritage

At RootsTech, MyHeritage announced the new **Live Story**, a new means of adding stories to your family tree in a manner that looks like (and sounds like) your ancestor is speaking... LIVE!

Trying to properly describe a new video product in a text-based description is challenging, to say the least. Luckily, MyHeritage has now released a video that shows **Live Story** in action.

**MyHeritage**  
Introducing  
**LiveStory**  
Create extraordinary video biographies  
[www.myheritage.com/livestory](https://www.myheritage.com/livestory)

The incredible **Live Story** feature from MyHeritage takes the facts and photos in your tree and transforms them into an animated video of an ancestor telling his or her own life story. In the video, Tal Erlichman, Director of Product Management at MyHeritage, introduces this futuristic feature and shows you how to use it to give voice to your ancestors' stories.

You can watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBwr-DO63vI&t=46s>.

## TOM COOK'S BLACKSMITH SHOP: REFLECTIONS ON THE FEBRUARY 2022 DCGS PROGRAM

By Kathi Coatney

I would never have thought there was a use for a bar magnet on an archeology dig. I learned there is a real use for one, especially when the dig is a forgotten blacksmith shop. I learned there is a difference between coal, coke and clinker. And, sadly, I learned the story of a thriving blacksmith shop in a vibrant community, most of which had, over time, vanished from sight and memory.

Thanks to the efforts of Douglas K. Boyd, the sponsorship of the Texas Department of Transportation and a small crew of helpers, the sites at the intersection of FM 455 and FM 2450 in Bolivar are no longer forgotten. The archeological digs revealed the foundations of Thomas Cook Sr.'s Blacksmith Shop and the Sartin Hotel, plus the well that provided water for the hotel. Both businesses were vital components of the small town on the Chisholm Trail, but the shop was notable because its owner, Tom Cook, was an African-American freedman.

This ownership was a rare achievement at that time,

one his descendants had lost all knowledge of. They also did not know Tom Cook was buried near Bolivar, a short distance from his shop and home. None of this information had been passed down to today. These family connections, and ties to the Bolivar community, were part of the local history found as a result of the dig. Tom Cook's descendants, including Howard Clark and Halee Clark Wright, who both worked on the dig, were identified using descendant community outreach and oral history research, among other sources.

In addition to "unearthing" the family connections, hundreds of artifacts were found at the site of the blacksmith shop. Pieces of blacksmithing tools, farrier items, broken wagon parts and scrap iron fragments were found there. Pieces of coal and its by-products, coke and clinker, were there. Even the placement of the forge and anvil were located! I had no idea I would learn so much at the February meeting! Pay attention at the March meeting, maybe we will all learn ways to preserve our ancestor's stories!

## HOWARD UNIVERISTY to DIGITIZE ITS ARCHIVE OF THOUSANDS OF BLACK NEWSPAPERS

During the apex of the civil rights movement, much of the mainstream news coverage excluded the views of Black people in its reporting. So the narrative in print largely did not include how they felt about the protests, the racism they experienced in the United States or how it affected their lives.

Except in the Black media.

Black newspapers provided in-depth coverage that balanced out what the white-dominated media omitted.

Now, with the help of a \$2 million grant announced Monday, Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center will make available countless articles that captured in real-time the impact of historical events on Black people that have long been difficult, if not impossible, to access. By digitizing its extensive Black Press Archives, anyone will be able to access Howard's collection of more than 2,000 newspapers from the United States, Africa and the African diaspora online.

Details may be found at: <https://bit.ly/3vGnq4b>.





## DONATION UPDATES DPL'S MAYFLOWER SILVER BOOKS COLLECTION

—Nancy Gilbride Casey  
Denton Public Library Volunteer

Denton Public Library's Special Collections is the fortunate recipient of the recent donation of 19 new volumes from the Mayflower Society's Silver Books Project.

The books were generously donated by the [Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants](#), with the goal of completing and updating the Silver Book collections in Texas libraries throughout the state. To date there are 22 Silver Book collections across the state—most within a 1.5 hour drive from most Texas residents.

For those unfamiliar with the Silver Books, the concept was born in 1959 and was known as the Five Generation Project—a single “publication of the tracing out of five generations of all the descendants of all *Mayflower* passengers.”

Originally compiled by volunteer staff who pored over approved lineage applications, supplemented with research, and evaluated submitted info, the first volume—featuring passengers Francis Easton, Samuel Fuller, and William White—was published in 1975 after years of delays due to logistics and project scope. A second volume followed in 1978. Little did those early volunteers understand what an enormous project they had undertaken!

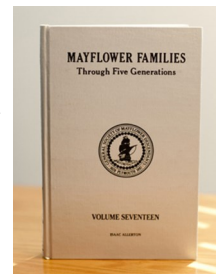
In addition to the Five Generation Project, the group also began to publish *Mayflower Families in Progress* (known as the pink and green books), revealing information to the public for review before the final Silver Book was published. In 2013, the project was renamed the “Silver Book Project,” named after the silver-colored cover of each volume.

Today there are twenty-two volumes of the Silver Books with multiple parts that make up the forty-two book catalog, with the primary purpose to offer *Mayflower* descendant lineage verification. They also provide a map for researchers, and writers to study passenger's lives, to better tell their stories. Various volumes are being revised and updated at any given point. The Mayflower Society plans to publish research on all families through generation seven, naming generation eight—a process which may take many years.

DPL's Special Collections holds the entire Silver Books set, however, the following donated volumes either replace

outdated or missing volumes. The books are for in-library use only.

*Vol. 4 2006 Edward Fuller 3rd Ed.*  
*Vol. 8 2008 Degory Priest 2nd*  
*Vol. 11 2009 Part 1 Edward Doty 2nd Ed.*  
*Vol. 13 2006 William White 3rd.*  
*Vol. 14 2007 Myles Standish, 2nd*  
*Vol 16 1999 Part 1 John Alden*  
*Vol 16 2020 Part 6 John Alden*  
*Vol. 19 2013 Part 1 Thomas Rogers*  
*Vol. 19 2019 Part 2 Thomas Rogers*  
*Vol. 21 2014 Part 1 John Billington 2nd, revised 2014*  
*Vol. 21 2017 Part 2 John Billington, 6th gen, name 7*  
*Vol 21 2018 Part 3 John Billington*  
*Vol 24 2019 Part 2 William Brewster*  
*Vol 24 2019 Part 3 William Brewster*  
*Vol. 25 2019 Edward Winslow (Gen 1-8)*



*Soule, George MFIP Series*  
*George Soule, Part 1*  
*George Soule Part 3*  
*George Soule, Part 4*  
*George Soule, Part 5*

*A very special thanks are due to the Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants for this generous donation.*

### MORE INFO:

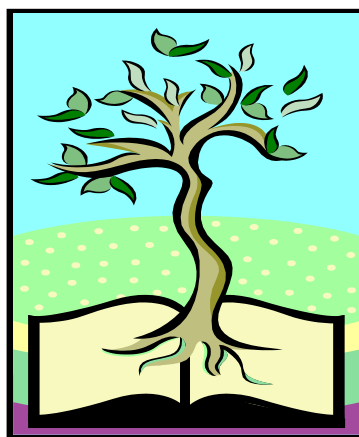
[“Do You Have Mayflower Ancestry? Here is How to Prove It.”](#) AncestralFindings podcast/video  
[Tracing Mayflower Lineage Resources at AmericanAncestors.org](#) Video

How to join: <https://www.texasmayflower.com/how-of-join>  
Search the [database](#) to see if your ancestor is among the *Mayflower* descendants noted in the Silver Books, courtesy of AmericanAncestors.

Search the catalog [www.library.cityofdenton.org](http://www.library.cityofdenton.org) or visit the Special Collections at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland, Denton Texas to find these and many other resources to help you with your family history research. For assistance email [genealogy@cityofdenton.com](mailto:genealogy@cityofdenton.com) or call (940)349-8752.

### 2020-2022 OFFICERS

**President—Joe Spears**  
**Vice-President—Beth Leggieri**  
**Secretary—Sandra Robertson**  
**Treasurer—Linda Touraine**  
**Librarian—Laura Douglas**  
**Webmaster—Chris Strauss**  
**Membership—Donna Spears**  
**Newsletter Editor—Kathy Strauss**  
**Hospitality—Bob and Linda Lane**



**NEXT MEETING OF THE  
DENTON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY WILL BE ON  
APRIL 14, 2022 AT THE  
EMILY FOWLER  
CENTRAL LIBRARY, 502  
OAKLAND ST., DENTON,  
TEXAS**

DENTON COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

502 Oakland Street  
Denton, TX 76201