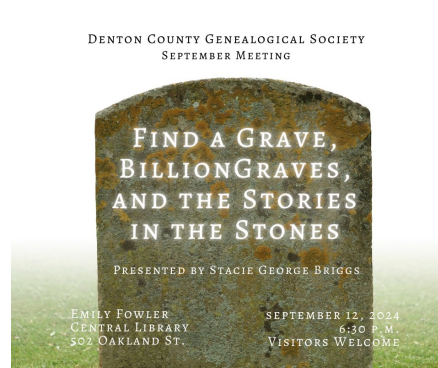


DCGS News

FIND A GRAVE, BILLIONGRAVES & THE STORIES IN THE STONES



“Find a Grave, BillionGraves, and the Stories in the Stones,” will be presented by **Stacie George Briggs**, to open the Denton County Genealogical Society’s 2024-25 programming year. The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2024. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., with a brief business meeting and presentation beginning at 7 p.m. The society will gather in the meeting room at

the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, in Denton. Visitors are welcome.

Stacie George Briggs loves working in cemeteries to make sure that every person has a memorial and headstone picture on Find a Grave (and soon on BillionGraves), so they are not forgotten. In addition to keeping a graveyard kit in her car, Stacie cleans stones, puts out flowers, and flags for Memorial and Veterans Days. Learn from Stacie how to use cemetery websites most effectively in your family history research, as well as what family gravestones can tell you about your ancestors.

Stacie George Briggs loves family and genealogy and has been researching her family’s history for over 18 years. Born and raised in Denton County, she has deep Texas roots going back 3-4 generations on every line of her tree. Stacie began helping others to research their family history in 2017; became Denton Family History Center assistant director in 2018, and director in 2020. She teaches free family history classes, creates programming, assists researchers, and more. She has presented to the Cross Timbers Genealogical Society, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and many others.



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Photo: Jones Photographic Studios of America, Studio No. 1, Fireworks at the Denton County Courthouse Celebrating the End of World War I, 1918-; digital image, *The Portal to Texas History* (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph12494/m1/1/>; 2 May 2023); citing Denton Public Library.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Another year is upon us. Time for a review of your digital files in respect to loss recovery.

If you have digital documents, be sure to have one or more backup methods. Don't lose valuable research if your computer crashes. Some backup methods include thumb drives, external hard drives, and cloud storage. Recently, I replaced a hard drive with one that was faster and had a larger storage capacity. Then I kept the old drive as an external storage device. You may wish to use cloud storage to prevent loss of data during a catastrophic event such as a flood, fire, or even home theft. Some loss events may be so catastrophic that nothing in your house is of any use or simply cannot be found. Offsite storage may save the day!

Backup drive data storage is valuable only if backed up regularly and to one or more backup

Primary data storage	Backup storage
Computer hard drive	USB thumb drive, external hard drive, cloud storage
USB thumb drive	Second USB thumb drive, cloud storage
Paper document files	Scan copies for digital storage (consider backup digital storage)

devices. I back up important files to more than one USB thumb drive. I keep one in the console of my car. In case of fire or tornado, if my car is available, I have backup data available. So, my car is a backup location for data storage. If there is a fire, when I leave the house in my car, my backup data files go with me.

The bottom line is to keep your data safe from loss. You certainly do not want to lose valuable research due to a failure to backup important documents and findings.

—Robert Lane, President
presidentdcgs@gmail.com

2024-25 DCGS OFFICERS

- President**.....Robert L. Lane, *presidentdcgs@gmail.com*
- Vice President** Stacie Briggs, *vicepresidentdcgs@gmail.com*
- Secretary** Eileen O’Neill, *secretarydcgs@gmail.com*
- Treasurer** Marian Carroll, *financedcgs@gmail.com*
- Librarian**Laura Douglas, *librariandcgs@gmail.com*
- Membership**..... **Volunteer Needed**, *membershipdcgs@gmail.com*
- Webmaster****Volunteer Needed**, Chris Strauss (outgoing), *publicitydcgs@gmail.com*
- Hospitality** **Volunteer Needed**, *socialdcgs@gmail.com*
- Newsletter Editor**Nancy Gilbride Casey, *newsletterdcgs@gmail.com*
- NGS Delegate**Robert L. Lane, *presidentdcgs@gmail.com*
- TxSGS District C Representative** Emily Coffman Richardson, *districtC@TXSGS.org*



Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DentonCountyGenealogicalSociety>

Society Website:

www.genealogydentontexas.org

MAY 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc.

May 9, 2024 Minutes

President Bob Lane called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Linda Lane, assistant membership chair, welcomed everyone. There were 22 members in attendance with 1 visitor, Paul Shelton.

Minutes of the April 11, 2024, meeting were approved as submitted and published in the May newsletter. There were no questions about the Treasurer's Report; it was filed for audit.

Reports by Board Members

Social/Hospitality - John Windsor said DCGS received \$63.00 in cash donations for 2023-24 with \$69.10 in expenses, thanking everyone for their cash and/or food donations. For this meeting, Paul Shelton, Beth Leggieri, Nancy Gilbride Casey, and Eileen O'Neill provided refreshments.

Librarian - Laura Douglas was absent. Nancy Gilbride Casey reminded members to be aware of summer genealogy events in the library.

Newsletter Editor - Nancy Gilbride Casey was thanked for her great job on the newsletter and congratulated for the first-place award from the Texas State Genealogical Society for *DCGS News*. A congratulatory letter from the TX State Genealogical Society arrived after being misaddressed.

Officer Election for 2024-2025

Candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee:

- ◆ President – Robert Lane (1-year term)
- ◆ Vice-President – Stacie Briggs (2-year term)
- ◆ Secretary – Eileen O'Neill (2-year term)
- ◆ Treasurer – Marian Carroll (1-year term)
- ◆ Librarian – Laura Douglas (1-year term)

Bob Lane asked if there were any nominations from the floor. The slate was accepted by unanimous vote. The new program year starts in June 2024.

There was no new business.

Announcements

- ◆ Stacie Briggs mentioned the Texas Veterans Hall of Fame Museum at Golden Triangle Mall will have a mini-wall and several events over July 5-7. The Museum is open 1-6 Fri-Sun.

- ◆ Congratulations go to DCGS member Emily Richardson who was honored for her work to create the TxSGS podcast *Lone Star Family Trails*. See the March 2024 issue of *Stirpes*.

- ◆ Congratulations go to DCGS member Donna Spears who will be inducted on May 11th as the Registrar for the DAR Flower Mound Chapter.

Program – Family Favorites: Recipe and Story Swap

Beth Leggieri, VP/Programs, introduced visitor Paul Shelton. The newest members of DCGS, Missy McCormick, Pam Spooner, Deanna Green, and Greg Bell presented their stories; other members discussed food they brought and any stories they had.

At the conclusion of the program, Beth asked for a motion: "In recognition of the 45th year anniversary of DCGS founding, I propose establishment of the Diana White Continuing Genealogical Education Scholarship to be awarded annually to a DCGS member in good standing. This scholarship establishes a specific benefit of DCGS membership, stimulates quest for continued genealogical education, and rewards member initiative. Diana White is a founding member of DCGS who served as president in its inaugural year, 1979. Diana White's decades of education and leadership to Denton County's genealogical community at large impacted thousands of families with her American History course family history project, thus drawing her students' parents in the assigned project with questions such as 'Mom, tell me all about my family's history. It's due next week.' Seed money of \$200 has been anonymously provided for the initial award to be made in the 2024-2025 program year." The motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

President Bob Lane then presented the President's Recognition of Excellence to Beth Leggieri with the thanks of the society for a great job.

At the conclusion of the meeting, President Bob Lane asked for assistance in storing tables and chairs. He closed with an anonymous quote: "A genealogist is a person who skillfully and imperceptibly turns a conversation to the topic of genealogy." Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



—Respectfully Submitted by Eileen
O'Neill, Secretary

Image by [rawpixel.com](https://www.rawpixel.com)

NEW! APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIP TO FURTHER YOUR GENEALOGICAL EDUCATION

By Nancy Gilbride Casey

DCGS encourages its members to hone their research skills as they develop their family trees and confirm their ancestral lineages. Now DCGS members can take advantage of a new program to further their genealogical education: the ***Diana Pearson White Continuing Genealogical Education Scholarship***.

The scholarship honors longtime DCGS member and inaugural president (1979) Diana Pearson White. Diana's decades of education and leadership to Denton County's genealogical community at large has impacted thousands of families. Beginning with her history classes' family history project, Diana drew her students' parents into the assigned project, with questions such as "Mom, tell me about my family's history. It's due next week!" As one parent said, "I am so glad you had this project, because finally my child had to ask me questions where I was the expert who knew all the answers." One Denton High School student, introduced to genealogy as a 10th grader, became a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution last year. For many, genealogy has become a life-long love, where, as one said, "Now I see how history influences me."

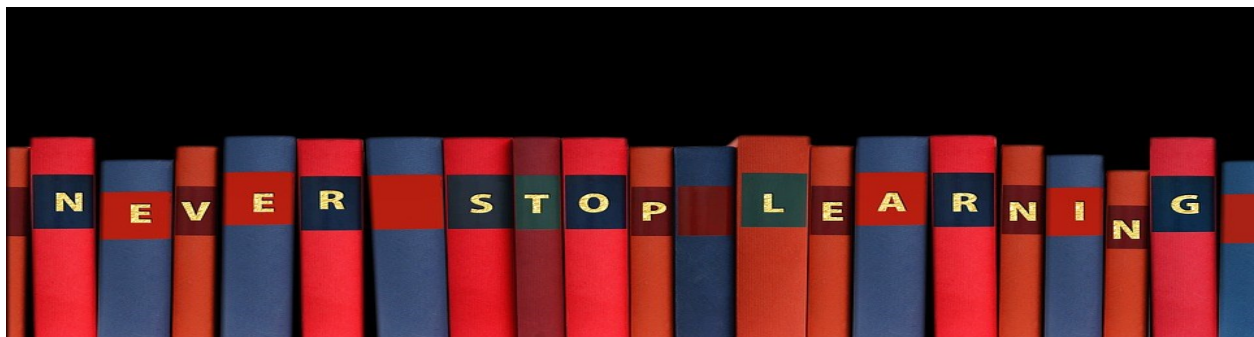
This first-of-its-kind scholarship will support DCGS members who wish to gain new skills, learn different methodologies, delve into unfamiliar record sets, or any number of goals to enhance their family history research. The scholarship will encourage attendance at a local, regional, or national educational genealogical workshop, seminar, or class, such as RootsTech, the TxSGS Family History Conference, Dallas Genealogical Society's seminar, online classes such as Research Like a Pro, etc.

The scholarship is open to current DCGS members in good standing. A total of \$200 is available to be awarded for this first round; the specific number and amounts of each scholarship will be determined by the scholarship judges, allowing flexibility in making awards. Applicants may request funds to cover registration or tuition costs up to \$200. Winners will be reimbursed their award amount after providing proof of event registration.

Applicants must submit a simple, one-page application detailing the event they wish to attend and how attendance will enhance their research. Following the event, winners will give a brief report to the membership, or a written reflection for ***DCGS News***.

The 2024 scholarship will be awarded this fall. The application will be available at the September DCGS meeting and will be emailed to members following the meeting. ***Deadline to apply is October 15, 2024.*** All applicants must be current on their dues, with payment received ***no later than October 10, 2024*** (before the October meeting). Scholarships will be awarded at the November 14th DCGS meeting.

Don't delay! We encourage all DCGS members to apply for this wonderful new opportunity, made possible by an anonymous donation to DCGS. ***What do YOU want to learn?***





MEMBERCONNECT: NEWS, TIPS, & RESOURCES

Congratulations to DCGS member **Joe Spears** (US Army—Vietnam), who will be inducted into the Texas Veterans Hall of Fame (TVHOF), on November 16th, at the University of North Texas Gateway Center. Joe will receive the Patriot Award at the organization’s 6th Annual Induction Ceremony, for his work on the Remember Them Forever project.

Joe has documented over 2,300 Texas veterans who fought in wars as far back as the Texas Revolution, and were not yet entered into the TVHOF database. Joe has voluntarily researched in 39 cemeteries in the past 2+ years for the project. Congratulations to Joe on this well-deserved honor.

For more information on the Remember Them Forever Project, visit: <https://txveterans.org/remember-them-forever/>

Registration is now open for TxSGS’s Family History Conference, “Navigating Your Family History,” to be held virtually, Nov. 1-2. Use the code **DCGS** when registering for the All Access package, and earn \$10 for our society. Early Bird registration open through 9/30. Complete details here: <https://www.txsgs.org/family-history-conference/>

TREASURER’S REPORT

Balance—April 19, 2024		\$2,741.04
Deposits		
5/10/2024	\$360.00	
5/10/24	\$200.00	
6/5/2024	\$110.00	
6/26/2024	\$70.00	
7/22/2024	\$20.00	
Total Deposits		\$760.00
Disbursements		
May 14, 2024—NGS Dues	\$110.00	
Total Disbursements		\$110.00
Balance—August 15, 2024		\$3,391.04
<i>—Respectfully Submitted, Marian Carroll, Treasurer</i>		



2024-25 Memberships Are Due

The membership year began on June 1, 2024.

Dues are \$20/individual, \$30/couple.

Membership dues will be accepted at the September 12th meeting, or mail your dues to:

*Denton County Genealogical Society
c/o Emily Fowler Central Library
502 Oakland Street, Denton, TX 76201*

ANCESTOR QUESTION OF THE MONTH: IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

This month we asked members to submit a story on an immigrant ancestor—how they got here, when they came, why they immigrated, etc. Thank you to Arthur Medrano for the topic suggestion. Here are this month’s submissions.

“Times were turbulent: religious and economic,” writes **Linda Hillyer Lane**. “Dorset people raised sheep and wove woolen cloth. The English market had hit a recession with foreign competition making inroads. Dorset preachers and parishioners were a burr in the saddle of the Church of England. Colonization of the New World seemed to offer a better future. John and Ann Hillyer (Hillier) emigrated from the Dorset or West Country of England around 1635. No English records show their data, but fires may have destroyed them. No passenger list has John’s name, so he likely was poor, further evidenced by his land plot being smaller than most at 33 acres, and his community job being that of gravedigger. His name is on the town marker as an original founder of Windsor, Connecticut. In 2023, I visited the town, saw John’s marker, and stood at the edge of his property.”



A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Wallace Jones, Sr." The signature is written on a piece of paper with a vertical line on the left and right sides.

Mary Tate writes, “At least 50 years ago, I found John Martin Dombhart’s *History of Walker County Alabama*, which includes the story of Wallis Jones and Susannah Beavert, my 4th great-grandparents. According to family tradition, the couple met parental objection to their marriage in

England, so they eloped to a tavern and boarded a ship for America. They settled along the Warrior River in Walker County, Alabama. Susannah made two trips alone on horseback through Indian Territory to secure their land bounty. The Native Americans allegedly helped her, suggesting she spoke their language, or perhaps was Native American herself. However, the 1850 census shows both Wallis and Susannah as born in South Carolina; other records suggest that Wallis may be a Junior. So, maybe the story is real, but a generation off—with Wallis Jones, Sr., born in England.”

Minna Marinko shares about her husband Fred’s paternal grandfather: “Jözef Marinko left his home in Stranska Vas, Novo Mesto, Slovenia, in 1903. He traveled overland (probably by train) 800 miles to Antwerp, Belgium, and boarded the *SS Kroonland* with 1600 others on July 18. Arriving in New York City ten days later, Jözef was processed through Ellis Island then made his way to Cleveland, Ohio.

Jözef was 27 years old, single, literate (but no English), and in good health. He had paid for steerage passage with \$20.00 to spare. His future bride, Maria Kutnar, also traveled on the ship. They married six months later and had five children. He worked as a skilled mechanic for White Motors. The couple are shown here on their 35th Anniversary.”



ANCESTOR QUESTION OF THE MONTH: IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS, CONTINUED



Missy McCormick writes, “My great-grandfather, Dr. Thomas Gregory was born in East Harling, Norfolk, England, on May 12, 1864. He attended Cambridge and Oxford, ‘preaching while a student to churches in and around London.’ On June 4, 1980, he ‘severed his connection with the Methodist ministry of England.’ He married Maria Scales in Bedford, England, on June 6, 1890, and a few days later they sailed for America. They arrived in Rancho, Texas, on August 3, 1890. He joined the West Texas Conference of the Methodist Church. He lived, preached and raised his family in numerous locations in Texas. He briefly visited Oxford again (mid-life) to earn his PhD in theology. His final pastoral post was in Lockhart, Texas, and he died in 1928. He was one of the original founders of Southern Methodist University, taught ‘History of Methodism’ at Southwestern University, and ‘served twice as grand chaplain of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas.’”¹

¹“Dr. Thomas Gregory Dies Suddenly Here,” *Lockhart Post-Register*, 16 Feb. 1928. p. 1, col. 1; imaged, *NewspaperArchive* (<https://access.newspaperarchive.com> : accessed 18 August 2024).

“My great-grandmother, Vjekoslava Baltorinic, began life in Srednjak, Croatia, on 14 August 1882, and ended it as Louise Kozlina in Lemont Furnace, Pennsylvania, on 23 July 1974,” shares **Nancy Gilbride Casey**.

“In December 1905, she traveled to America on the *Slavonia*; the ship’s manifest stated that she was going ‘to her brother-in-law Jacob Vukic, Lemont Furnace, Pennsylvania.’

About six months later, Vjekoslava Baltorinic married Frank Kozlina. While Vjekoslava followed her sister to the U.S., Frank was likely drawn here by the need for workers in the Connellsville Coal Region of southwestern Pennsylvania. The couple made their home in Lemont Furnace, a coal patch town, consisting of rows of nearly identical single or double houses, built and owned by the mining company, as well as a company store, a church, a school and the mine. Louise joined several Croatian civic and Catholic organizations to ease her transition to America. She lived to be 94 years old, and had eight children, 20 grandchildren, and 30 great-grandchildren at the time.”



Welcome

to our newest DCGS member
Shari Williams.
We’re glad to have you with us!

DCGS ANNOUNCES 2024-25 PROGRAMS

DCGS's Programming Committee proudly announces its slate of 2024-25 programs, featuring a wide range of genealogical and historical topics—many suggested by members in our spring survey.

All events are held at the Emily Fowler Central Library meeting room unless otherwise noted. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., with program at 7 p.m. Presenters will be virtual for events marked (V). Stay tuned to **DCGS News** for more info on each program.

Find a Grave, BillionGraves, and the Stories in the Stones, presented by Stacie George Briggs, 12 September 2024 (see complete info on front page)

Field Trip: How to Clean and Care for Headstones, presented by Cindy Shipman, Saturday, 5 October 2024, 10-11 a.m., Roselawn Cemetery, 3801 Roselawn Dr, Denton, TX 76207. Details at September meeting or email vicepresidentdcs@gmail.com for info.

Courthouse Records: One Stop Shopping for Family Secrets, presented by Patti Gillespie, 10 October 2024

Research a Veteran: Exploring the Basics of Military Research (Part I) presented by Jennifer Holik (V), 14 November 2024

Exploring the Greatest Generation: Adding Context to the Veteran's Story (Part II), presented by Jennifer Holik (V), 9 January 2025

Tax Records or Why Did Scarlett Make a Dress of Her Mother's Drapes? presented by Kelvin L. Myers, 13 February 2025

Migration Through the South, presented by Jim Thornhill, 13 March 2025

Denton County historical presentation, TBA, 10 April 2025

Annual Business Meeting & Member Sharing, 8 May 2025



The banner features a dark blue background. On the left is a white outline of the state of Texas with the letters 'TxSGS' in a stylized font. To the right is a red-bordered rectangular area containing a vintage-style map with a compass rose and a pocket watch. The text 'Navigating YOUR FAMILY HISTORY' is written in a cursive font over the map. In the top right corner of the red area, there are two red boxes with white text: 'NOVEMBER 1-2' and 'VIRTUAL'. Below the red area, the text '2024 TxSGS Family History Conference' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font.

UPCOMING FALL GENEALOGY EVENTS @ THE LIBRARY

All are welcome to join the Denton Public Library's genealogy events noted below. Events are held in the Central Library's meeting room, 502 Oakland Street, in Denton.



Connections: A Genealogy Discussion Group

Friday, 9/27, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join us to discuss genealogical research methods and historical context using articles published in *Stirpes*, the journal of the Texas State Genealogical Society, as a starting point. Registrants will be sent the focus article and list of questions for each meeting; registration is required. Check the library website to register <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>.

“Basic Search Techniques,” by Susan E. Ball, (*Stirpes*, September 2023, pages 19-23)

Hunting Your House's History

Saturday, 9/28, 10 a.m.

Have you ever wondered about the history of your house or location of your business? Are you preparing a narrative history for a local historical marker? Do you love Denton history? Learn what resources are available and how to use them to find out about your house's “secret history.”

Bolivar Blacksmith Shop

Thursday, 10/17, 6:30 p.m.

Learn about the archaeological and historical investigations at the Tom Cook Blacksmith Shop, located in Bolivar. The story of the Tom and Lethia Cook and their descendants is an important addition to the story of black heritage

in our County. Presented by archaeologist Douglas Boyd and oral history professor Maria Franklin, Ph.D.

Annual Genealogy Lock-In

Friday, 10/18, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Denton Public Library is partnering with other libraries and genealogy societies across Texas to host the Annual Genealogy Lock-In. You can come and go, stay for the full day, or view the programs virtually. Eight presentations, recorded specifically for this event, will be streamed throughout the day. Librarians and volunteers will be available for one-on-one help, and tours of Special Collections. Additional information will be available at https://library.cityofdenton.com/screens/sc_lockin.html beginning September 1, 2024.

9:00–9:50 a.m. *U.S. Naturalization: The Records, The Laws and the Impact*, Irene B. Walters, Librarian Houston Public Library's Family History Research Center

10:00–10:50 a.m. *Genealogy Resources at the Texas General Land Office*, Kevin Klaus, Texas General Land Office Research Room Team Leader and Information Specialist

11:00–11:50 a.m. *So You Discovered You Have a Colonial Ancestor. Now What?* Craig R. Scott, MA, CG, FUGA, President and CEO of Heritage Books, Inc.

11:50 a.m.– 12:50 p.m. *Lunch on Your Own*

12:50–2:10 p.m. *Getting Started with Your Genealogy*, Laura Douglas, Head of Special Collections, Denton Public Library

2:25–3:15 p.m. *Introducing the Retro Tech Lab: Digitally Preserving Family History*, Mark Dellenbaugh, MA, MLIS, Genealogy and Local History Librarian at the Arlington Public Library

3:30–4:20 p.m. *I've Found My Irish Immigrant Ancestor. Now What?*, Claire Bradley, MA, Director of Irish Studies of the International Institute of Genealogical Studies

4:35–5:25 p.m. *Writing Your Family Story: Learning to Assess and Compile Your Research*, Emily Coffman Richardson, Genealogist with KinSearchers, Director-at-Large, TxSGS

5:40–6:30 p.m. *Proven Methods for Breaking Down Genealogical Brick Walls*, Leslie Tomlinson, MFA, CG

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

Founded in 1979, the ***Denton County Genealogical Society*** (DCGS) has been serving area genealogy researchers for 45 years, offering classes and events, collaboration, and support, in partnership with the Denton Public Library—a Family Search Affiliate Library.

DCGS is a proud member of the National Genealogical Society and the Texas State Genealogical Society.

The society meets on the second Thursday of the month (September-November, January-May), at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., program at 7 p.m. Programs may be in-person, virtual, or hybrid (both in-person & via Zoom). Visitors are welcome.

Membership dues are \$20 (individual) and \$30 (couples). To become a member, contact the membership chair at membershipdcgs@gmail.com.



Denton County Genealogical Society • 502 Oakland St., Denton, TX 76201

**Denton County
Genealogical Society
502 Oakland Street
Denton, TX 76201**

