

DCGS News

“RESEARCHING A VETERAN” IS FOCUS OF NOVEMBER MEETING



Jennifer Holik

All the records DID NOT burn. Have you ever wondered what dad or grandpa did in the war? What happened to your uncle who died? What was training and combat like? How did grandpa get wounded? What happened to the family during and after the war? Answers can be found.

Join presenter **Jennifer Holik** to learn some of the answers during her presentation **“Research a Veteran: Exploring the Basics of Military Research,”** on

Thursday, November 14, at the Denton County Genealogical Society’s monthly meeting. Attendees will gather at the Emily Fowler Central Library meeting room. 502 Oakland St., Denton. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., with a brief business meeting followed by the presentation at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will be hybrid, with the presenter joining us remotely. Visitors are welcome.

The presentation is part one of a two-part series on military research. Part two will be offered during the January 9th DCGS meeting.

In the November session attendees will learn:

- ◆ Where to begin your research at home
- ◆ What questions to ask
- ◆ The first part of the research strategy to learn any veteran’s story from any 20th century war and military branch
- ◆ What records you need to establish the foundation and where to locate them
- ◆ How to create a timeline of service
- ◆ How to begin writing the story.

(Continued on p. 5)

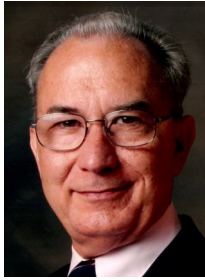


INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President’s Message 2
 Meeting Minutes 3
 October Meeting 4
 Treasurer’s Report 5
 MemberConnect 5
 Ancestor Q of Month..... 6
 Scholarship Update..... 8

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



FamilySearch offers links to research the country origins of family surnames.

You may find information related to your family name on the FamilySearch surname search as follows: From the main menu, select the “**Activities**” link, then select “**Surname Origins.**” Enter the surname you are researching. I entered “Brooks,” my mother’s maiden name.

FamilySearch’s result: “Brooks is an English name which is usually a variant of Brook, with excrescent -s. The optional addition of -s, with no grammatical function, is usually post-medieval, but some examples of the same person's name occurring with and without -(e)s have been noted as early as the 14th century in South Lancashire. The -es in such cases has neither a plural nor a genitival function, and the name means ‘dweller at

the brook.” (“Excrescent” means added without etymological justification.)

Since spelling was not standardized yet, Brooks may have various alternate spellings such as Brookes and Brucks, and others may exist also. The Brooks name is common in the United States, England, and Canada, while other spellings may come from Wales, Germany, or Australia.

FamilySearch’s collection holds over 8,000,000 records with the Brooks last name. Although I have no intention of researching ALL the possibilities, this information certainly helps narrow my efforts to find maternal links to just a few countries.

You may also find it interesting to check the possible historical sources of your family name. Begin your inquiry at this link: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/surname>.

—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	Linda Lane, financedcgs@gmail.com
Librarian	Laura Douglas, librariandcgs@gmail.com
Membership	Marian Carroll, membershipdcgs@gmail.com
Webmaster	Volunteer Needed , Chris Strauss (outgoing), publicitydcgs@gmail.com
Hospitality	Joan Anderson, 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

OCTOBER 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Denton County Genealogical Society, October 10, 2024 minutes

President Bob Lane called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bob announced that Marion Carroll has been appointed as the new membership chair; she welcomed the 27 members, three members on Zoom, and five visitors to the meeting.

Minutes of the September 12, 2024, meeting were published in the newsletter. There being no corrections or questions, the minutes were approved as published.

Following the resignation of Marion Carroll as treasurer in order to become the membership chair, Linda Lane has been appointed as treasurer.

The Treasurer's Report has been published in the newsletter. Since there were no questions, the report will be filed for audit.

Reports by Board Members

Social/Hospitality—Joan Anderson has been appointed as social chair. She provided the treats for tonight. Please see the sign-up sheet to volunteer to provide treats for future meetings.

Librarian—October 18 is the Lock-In at the library. It lasts from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. with eight programs during the day. It is free; there will be door prizes and help for those who have questions about their genealogy research.

Newsletter Editor—Nancy Gilbride Casey thanked those who responded to the Ancestor Question of the Month and announced the next question for the November newsletter. She challenged members to think of an ancestor to whom they're grateful and to write the ancestor a thank you note.

She also mentioned that *Stirpes*, the journal of the Texas State Genealogical Society, is always looking for authors to submit to that publication.

Scholarship Committee—As chair of the scholarship committee, Nancy urged members to consider applying for all or part of the \$200

available to advance members' genealogical educational goals.

Member Vote—As announced at the September meeting, the Board has proposed raising dues for next year by \$5 per year for each category (single, family). The effective date would be June 1, 2025. President Lane asked for a vote; this was passed unanimously.

Announcements

- ◆ The next DCGS meeting will be Thursday, November 14, 2024.
- ◆ Bob announced the DCGS publication *The City of Denton Death Records* are available.
- ◆ Stacie Briggs, vice president/programs, announced a field trip to the Dallas J. Erik Jonsson Central Library on Saturday, November 16. Interested members will meet at 10 a.m. on the 8th floor of the Dallas Library for a 30-minute tour and orientation. Then there will be time for personal research. A room will be reserved for us for lunch, bring your own. Bob mentioned that on the 7th floor there is a copy of the Declaration of Independence and an original copy of the First Folio of Shakespeare, both worthy of our attention.

Program—Stacie introduced our speaker for the evening, Patti Gillespie, who discussed the importance of courthouse records. Her full bio is in the October newsletter.

At the end of the presentation, Bob Lane offered our thanks to the presenter, and a quote from Maya Angelou to close the meeting. Bob asked for assistance in storing the tables and chairs, thanked the members, and adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.



—Respectfully Submitted by
Eileen O'Neill, Secretary

Image by rawpixel.com

GILLESPIE'S "COURTHOUSE RECORDS" PRESENTATION AWE-INSPIRING

By Missy McCormick

Patti Gillespie, a noted genealogical researcher and the founder of Family Lines and Stories, presented "**Courthouse Records: One-Stop Shopping for Family Secrets,**" at the October 2024 DCGS meeting.

Patti shared how she conducts in-depth research to uncover family stories utilizing courthouse records, and included research about her great-grandmother which clearly demonstrated:

- ◆ "Courthouses are places where secrets are kept."
- ◆ "Lies are commonplace [in documents]."
- ◆ "It takes more than one document to prove a point or a fact."

In the latter part of her presentation, Patti discussed the benefits of searching for historical documents using the FamilySearch Labs site: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/labs/>. She pointed to a new AI-generated search option on the website: "Expand Your Search with Full Text." A short video demonstrated how to navigate the tool: "Unlock the Power of Full-Text Searching."

To close, Patti recommended two "must-have" books for anyone planning to do courthouse research (available in Special Collections at the Emily Fowler Library): *Courthouse Research for Family Historians: Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures*, by Christine Rose, and *Locating Your Roots: Discover Your Ancestors Using Land Records*, by Patricia Law Hatcher.



**Field Trip to
Dallas Public Library's
Genealogy Collection
Saturday, November 16,
2024**

- ◆ Meet at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515
- ◆ Free parking in the library's garage
- ◆ Program begins @ 10 a.m. with library staff
- ◆ Free time to research the library's collections
- ◆ Enjoy your research in the library's room and share your finds
- ◆ Depart on your own
- ◆ For more info or to join the trip, email newsletterdcgs@gmail.com.

Postponed—New Date TBA

“RESEARCHING VETERANS (CONT.)

Ms. Holik states, “I use storytelling along with the records to help you understand the deeper impacts of service. You might want a tissue for the story at the end of this session.”

Jennifer Holik is a genealogist, military researcher, spiritual coach, and an intuitive healer specializing in inherited and war trauma and ancestral healing. She has more than 25 years of genealogy, military research, and writing experience. Jennifer is the author of more than twenty books on genealogy and military research and writing topics. She helps people identify and release the beliefs, behaviors, and patterns in their lives and the lives of their ancestors that keep them stuck. Using a variety of tools, and including writing, energy healing, research, and more, she helps people release the past and create the life they desire.

TREASURER’S REPORT		
<i>In accordance with DCGS Bylaws, the fiscal year begins June 1. Future Treasurer Reports will reflect a calendar month, and will appear in the next available newsletter published after the reporting month has ended.</i>		
Report for Month of September 2024		
Balance—September 1, 2024		\$3,371.04
Deposits		
9/13/24—dues	\$40.00	
Total Deposits		\$40.00
Disbursements		
9/12/2024—program	\$75.00	
9/12/2024—supplies	\$11.00	
9/12/2024—hospitality	\$24.99	
Total Disbursements		\$110.99
Balance—September 30, 2024		\$3,300.05
<i>—Respectfully Submitted, Linda Lane, Treasurer</i>		



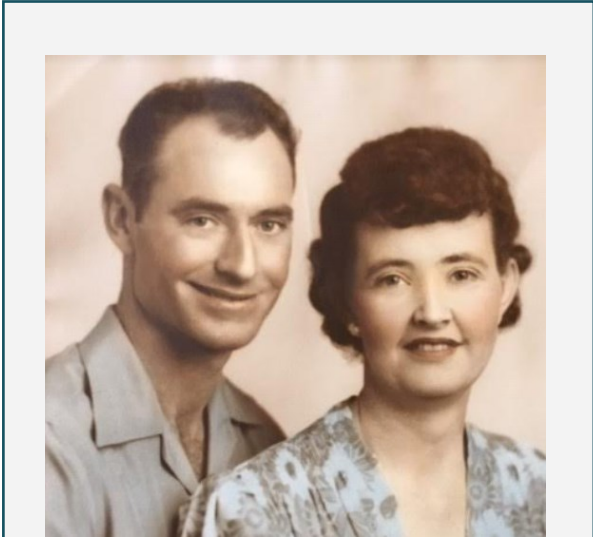
MEMBERCONNECT: NEWS, TIPS, & RESOURCES

Kudos are in order to **Laura Douglas**, DCGS librarian and Denton Public Library Special Collections librarian, and **Kathy Lawrence**, DCGS member and library volunteer. The duo created *Connections*, the library discussion group which focuses on articles from *Stirpes*, the Journal of the Texas State Genealogical Society (TxSGS). The concept was picked up by TxSGS, rebranded the *Stirpes* Study Group, and is now available to all TxSGS Partner Societies. The TxSGS program will use articles chosen by Laura and Kathy, along with the discussion questions and resource guides they developed. Congratulations, ladies!

to our newest DCGS members
Emily Tarpenning,
Larry Brenner &
Ginny Richards.
We’re glad to have you with us!

ANCESTOR QUESTION OF THE MONTH: SAYING THANK YOU TO OUR ANCESTORS

In this month of gratitude, we asked members to write a thank you note to an ancestor. Appreciation to Laura Douglas for the topic suggestion. Here are this month’s submissions.



Herman and Edith Johnson Huffman

Papa, Herman Edward Huffman, I am so thankful to you for being a wonderful role model to me. Thank you for loving me and always being there for me. For bringing me soup when I was sick, teaching me to fish, letting me help you work on cars, and letting me help you in the garden. Thank you for taking me to daddy-daughter dinners when I was in Girl Scouts. You were and always will be my hero. I will be forever grateful to have had you in my life. You showed me how a husband and father should treat his wife and children. You showed me that love and marriage can work. The way you took care of Nana driving her everywhere she needed to go. You taught me that a man can truly love his wife, and it is not a sign of weakness. Thank you.

Your loving granddaughter,
Stacie (Briggs)

❧

Dear Grandmother Caroline,

Thank you for having the courage to survive the loss of your father, being sent to an orphanage, and riding an orphan train from New York City to Gainesville, Tx.

Your granddaughter,
Vickie (Whitfield)

☺☺☺

To: Maria Eva Odenwald Dahm
Great grandmother

Dear Grandmama,

I never met you, but I want to thank you for taking what must have been a frightening voyage in 1882 across the Atlantic from your home in Phillipsburg, Germany, where you were surrounded by relatives. You travelled alone at age 17 to a foreign country, whose language you didn’t speak, with little money. There were no other Odenwalds on your ship. Were you with another family or were you truly alone? Your brother Adrian came to the U.S. a year earlier. Were you going to meet him in Chicago? Your father died shortly after you were born. Did that contribute to your desire to search for a better life in the U.S.? My father, your grandson, remembers you fondly; he said you were never comfortable with English but taught him some German. Thank you so much for taking that long journey into a better future.

Love, your great-granddaughter,
Eileen (O’Neill)

MORE THANK YOUS TO OUR ANCESTORS

Continued next page...

Dear Mom (Anna Kozlina Gilbride),

You've always been who I looked up to most in the world. Thank you for raising us four kids on your own, making sure we had a roof over our heads, and food on the table. Thanks for staycations in Cleveland, holiday extravaganzas, and so much more. We were rich in love and never lacked for things we truly needed. I am forever grateful for you.

Love,
Nancy (Gilbride Casey)

A letter to my aunt, Lorena Katherine Hillyer Fox, who was the family genealogist and 50 years older than me, to the month. We each were the only daughters in our generation.



Dear Aunt Lorena,

I now understand why you worked so hard to preserve family stories. You transcribed letters on a manual typewriter with carbon copies. You sent letters to Grandpa asking him about certain aspects of his early life that none of us grandchildren had any ideas had happened. And now, because of you, we have wonderful stories to share. You traveled to states far away to document details. There were no computers or online records. You had to dig through dusty courthouse records. I remember you taking us to visit graves. As a child, I did not appreciate what you were doing. I thought it all rather strange to be so invested in dead people. Now I'm the one doing that same trek. By the way, you were very good at collecting the data. I have visited some of those same sites and thanked those ancestors.

Thank you,
Linda L. Hillyer Lane



Church to which John Price, 1763-1847, walked on Sunday mornings. (Photo: B. Leggieri, Pine Grove, Kentucky, 17 Sept. 2024)

To all my ancestors,

Your resilience, courage, faithfulness, stewardship, and vision have added perspective to my own journey. Your continuity and commitment to your communities of kinship continue to impact the present.

Your lives filter and level the tyranny of the urgent of this present era. And you are still teaching me as I uncover your stories, forcing me to grapple with the complexities of my nation's history and the place and time into which you were born. When your choices disappointed or dismayed me, I learned to extend grace to you and look again at the challenges you were facing at the time.

You met the onslaught of advancing change and adapted where necessary while holding fast to your beliefs. You keep me grounded in humility and gratitude.

—Yours, **Beth (Leggieri)**

THANK YOUS TO OUR ANCESTORS (CONT.)



Maternal grandfather Major Harold John Gregory (Capps), who passed away in 1971 at 78.

Papa,

Thank you for your service to our nation. You began serving in World War I, with the 359th Infantry Co. B. 90th Division (1917-1919). By the end of WW I, you achieved the status of 2nd Lieutenant. Following WW I, you commanded the Field Artillery Co. for the Texas National Guard in Weatherford, Texas, until 1927. As our nation entered World War II, you enlisted in 1942, serving as a Commander with the 786th Military Police Battalion in New York. You ultimately achieved the status of Major. My fondest memories of you are whenever I visited you and grandmother Moie at your ranch in Princeton, Texas. I enjoyed the awesome assortment of animals you raised on your ranch: horses, cows, goats, and peacocks.

*Your loving granddaughter, **Missy Reilly McCormick***



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION UPDATE

By Nancy Gilbride Casey, Scholarship Committee Chair

In September, the DCGS membership voted to establish the Diana Pearson White Continuing Genealogical Education Scholarship. The goal of the scholarship is to provide funds to support our members' pursuit of further education to advance their genealogical skills at a conference, seminar, or other educational event.

The funds were donated anonymously, and were specifically earmarked for this educational purpose. No member dues will ever be used to support this scholarship. Future donations to DCGS may also be directed to the scholarship fund if a donor wishes.

The first round of scholarships were to be given out at the November monthly meeting. However, no applications were submitted during this first round. In this case, the funds will remain in the DCGS coffers, and hopefully awarded during the next round, beginning May 2025, with applications due in September 2025.

Members are encouraged to take note of conferences, webinars, seminars, workshops, and classes that are offered throughout the year, and keep them in mind for the next round.

Here are a *few* examples of events that members might apply for scholarship funds to attend:

- ◆ [Texas State Genealogical Society's Family History Conference](#)—Held annually in the fall.
- ◆ [RootsTech](#)—In-person attendance in Salt Lake City.
- ◆ [Dallas Genealogical Society Spring or Fall seminars](#)—All-day, in-depth seminars with star faculty.
- ◆ [Research Like a Pro](#)—Nicole Dyer and Diana Elder offer study groups and eCourses on their research methodology.
- ◆ [Family Tree University classes](#)—Expertly-led courses, learn at your own pace, access for a full year!

MORE THANK YOUS TO OUR ANCESTORS



Dear Jacob Book,

I voted in the election for the 47th president of the United States of America. When you lived in western Pennsylvania in the 1770s and 1780s, you faced many struggles and hardships. Roads from the frontier into eastern Pennsylvania were few and inadequate to move produce to urban markets. Neighbors were making decisions on support for the King of England or support for a new nation. Indians aligned themselves with the British army and targeted attacks on farms and communities of active Revolutionaries.

But you, Jacob Book (27 Dec 1761 – 20 Sep 1852), my fourth great-grandfather, chose to support the American cause. Therefore, my thanks go to you who believed in the future hope and promise of a new nation, even when faced with certain loss and hardship for yourself and your family.

—Sandra Robertson

GROW YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

See what can you dig up in the Genealogy Collection
at the Emily Fowler Central Library.



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**

