

# DCGS News

## LEARN TO USE TAX RECORDS AT THE FEBRUARY DCGS MEETING



“Nothing is certain but death and taxes.” Though death happens only once taxes must be paid every year, making tax records an important resource for genealogists. These records can sometimes provide information about birth, death, and marriage and can help separate two men of the same name. They may even help you identify the owner of your enslaved ancestor.

Learn more about this important record set on February 13, 2025, in “Tax Records or Why Did Scarlett Make A Dress of Her Mother’s Drapes?” presented by **Kelvin Myers**. 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. Visitors are welcome.

A popular speaker to many genealogical societies and family associations throughout Texas, Kelvin brings knowledge of social sciences, history, genealogy, and some “PI” techniques to his work. His experience includes eighteen years as a professional genealogist and twenty-eight years as an avid researcher-historian. A graduate of Texas Tech University, Kelvin was a staff member of the Dallas Public Library genealogy section for ten years. He attended the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research of Samford University, studying advanced methodology and library research. He currently contracts with attorneys, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services, and heir-searching companies as a forensic genealogist, to locate missing or unknown heirs to estates or oil and gas royalties. In January 2007 he was appointed chairman of the History and Archives Committee for First United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas. He has published three books on his native Crosby County, including *Early Records of Crosby County Land District*, *West Texas 1880-1915*, a compilation of early census, marriage and church records. He was the co-compiler of *Crosby County Cemetery Records* published through the Crosby County Historical Commission.



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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



Writing about ancestors:

First step: Decide your focus for the story. Focus options are unlimited but consider the following two ideas as a possible starting point. Be sure to add your own ideas to keep the writing personal and interesting.

- Discuss the transportation from one location to the other (air, land, and sea).
- Explore Google Earth.

I lived in Germany with my soldier father and my mother from 1949 to 1952. We lived in a house in Bad Hersfeld while my father commanded a small company of the U.S. Army patrolling the border between the U.S. sector of postwar Germany and the Russian sector. I have vivid memories of the house we lived in during that time. I was able to see the very house we lived in via Google Earth by searching the address using a commissary card my mother kept. I was amazed at how accurate my memory was of the house (front door NOT facing the street, entry through the side made the kitchen the point of entry, etc.). I am pleased that my memory of 73-75 years ago is more accurate than I expected. From the street in front of the house, I can remember a house to our left, but I cannot recall one to the right. From the Google Earth

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**Idea One: Describe how families moved together or apart.**

- Create a map showing location(s) of ancestral homes.
- Create a map linking one or more locations. Describe what may be the same about the two (or more) locations and what may be the different. Discuss how the family adjusted to the differences.

## 2024-25 DCGS OFFICERS

<b>President</b> .....	Robert L. Lane, <a href="mailto:presidentdcgs@gmail.com">presidentdcgs@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b> .....	Stacie Briggs, <a href="mailto:vicepresidentdcgs@gmail.com">vicepresidentdcgs@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b> .....	Eileen O’Neill, <a href="mailto:secretarydcgs@gmail.com">secretarydcgs@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> .....	Linda Lane, <a href="mailto:financedcgs@gmail.com">financedcgs@gmail.com</a>
<b>Librarian</b> .....	Laura Douglas, <a href="mailto:librariandcgs@gmail.com">librariandcgs@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership</b> .....	Marian Carroll, <a href="mailto:membershipdcgs@gmail.com">membershipdcgs@gmail.com</a>
<b>Webmaster</b> .....	<b>Volunteer Needed</b> , Chris Strauss (outgoing), <a href="mailto:publicitydcgs@gmail.com">publicitydcgs@gmail.com</a>
<b>Hospitality</b> .....	Joan Anderson, <a href="mailto:socialdcgs@gmail.com">socialdcgs@gmail.com</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b> .....	Nancy Gilbride Casey, <a href="mailto:newsletterdcgs@gmail.com">newsletterdcgs@gmail.com</a>
<b>NGS Delegate</b> .....	Robert L. Lane, <a href="mailto:presidentdcgs@gmail.com">presidentdcgs@gmail.com</a>
<b>TxSGS District C Representative</b> .....	Emily Coffman Richardson, <a href="mailto:districtC@TXSGS.org">districtC@TXSGS.org</a>



Find us on Facebook:

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

Society Website:

[www.genealogydentontexas.org](http://www.genealogydentontexas.org)

# JANUARY 2025 MEETING MINUTES

*Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc.  
January 9, 2025 minutes*

President Bob Lane called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 21 people on Zoom, two of whom were guests, in addition to our presenter Jennifer Holik. Due to difficulties with Zoom, Marian Carroll, membership chair, did not introduce guests.

Minutes of the November 14, 2024, meeting were published in the newsletter. There being no corrections or questions, the minutes were approved as published.

There were no questions about the Treasurer's Report as published in the newsletter, and it was filed for audit.

## **Reports by Board Members**

**Social/Hospitality**—Due to the snow preventing our meeting at the library, President Lane thanked us for providing our own refreshments.

**Treasurer**—The report will be filed for audit.

**Librarian**—Laura Douglas mentioned two programs of interest that will be held at the Emily Fowler Library. Registration is required for both. "Writing Your Memories" with Emily Richardson is a two-part workshop meeting on January 17 and February 14. "Connections: a Genealogy Discussion Group" will meet monthly for four months, beginning Friday, January 24, 2025. In addition, the Texas State Genealogical Society is holding an online program for beginners, "Genealogy Essentials," with eight webinars. Bob mentioned this would be a good program if we knew anyone who is just starting in genealogy.

**Newsletter**—Nancy Gilbride Casey said there were no responses to the last "Question of the Month" but a new question for the next newsletter will go out tomorrow.

There was no **New Business**.

## **Announcements**

President Lane announced the next DCGS meeting will be February 13, 2025.

A volunteer is still needed to handle the DCGS website. Chris Strauss has done a superb job for a number of years but wants to move out of the position. Chris has generously agreed to stay on until the position is filled. It is not an onerous job, and the society needs someone to volunteer.

President Lane said he hoped everyone saw this month's newsletter and recommended everyone make note of page 4. *DCGS News* was again awarded first place in Partner Society Newsletters by TxSGS. He congratulated Nancy Gilbride Casey and all who contributed items to the newsletter for a job well done.

The field trip to the Dallas Public Library, postponed from last fall, is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025. The genealogy collection at the library is considered one of the top three or four collections and is worth the trip to hear the presentation about their collection. See the January newsletter for details.

Jennifer Holik joined us on Zoom for part two of "Exploring the Greatest Generation: Adding Context to the Veteran's Story." At the end of her presentation, President Bob Lane asked for questions for the speaker and thanked her for her talk.

President Lane offered as the last word a quote from Plutarch, an ancient Greek philosopher: "It is a desirable thing to be well-descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors."

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.




## TEXAS INSTITUTE OF GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH SET FOR JUNE

The Texas State Genealogical Society's summer institute is scheduled for June 16-20, 2025. *The Texas Institute of Genealogical Research* (or TIGR), held every other year, will bring together top experts, focused curricula, and engaged classmates. Students can expect a supportive learning environment where meaningful discussions, interactive problem-solving, and real-life case studies are the norm. Every TIGR session builds on the previous ones, ensuring that returning attendees and newcomers alike benefit from innovative topics, fresh perspectives, and the latest methodologies.

This year's courses include:

- ◆ **Research in the Lone Star State**, coordinated by Kelvin Myers
- ◆ **Building Communities Across the South**, coordinated by J. Mark Lowe, FUGA
- ◆ **Legally Texas: Advanced Legal Research in the Lone Star State**, coordinated by Judy G. Russell, CG®, CGL®
- ◆ **Integrating AI into Genealogical Research**, coordinated by Nicole Dyer
- ◆ Course title TBA, coordinated by Michael L. Strauss, AG®


For more info, visit: <https://www.txsgs.org/tigr-2025/>



— TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY —  
**TEXAS INSTITUTE**  
*of* GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH  
*To Enrich, Expand and Inspire.*

*Mark Your Calendar:*  
**June 16-20, 2025**

**VIRTUAL!** Stay tuned for updates!  
[www.txsgs.org/tigr-2025](https://www.txsgs.org/tigr-2025)





<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>		
<b>Report for Month of December 2024</b>		
<b>Balance—December 31, 2024</b>		<b>\$3,170.05</b>
Deposits December	\$0.00	
<b>Total December Deposits</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Disbursements December	\$0.00	
<b>Total December Disbursements</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Balance December 31, 2024</b>		<b>\$3,170.05</b>
<i>—Respectfully Submitted, Linda Lane, Treasurer</i>		

**SAVE THE DATE!**

*DCGS Spring Field Trip*  
**Denton County Historical Park  
 & Courthouse Tour**  
 317 W. Mulberry St., Denton  
 Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m.  
*(begin at the historical park)*

We will have a sign up sheet at the  
 February and March meetings,  
 or email [vicepresidentdcgs@gmail.com](mailto:vicepresidentdcgs@gmail.com)  
 to sign up.



**Field Trip to  
 Dallas Public Library's  
 Genealogy Collection  
 Saturday, February 8, 2025**

- ◆ Meet at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Street, Dallas
- ◆ Free parking in the library's garage
- ◆ Program begins @ 10 a.m.—30-minute tour/orientation with library staff
- ◆ Free time to research on your own in the library's collections
- ◆ Enjoy your bag lunch in a meeting room and share your finds
- ◆ Depart on your own time
- ◆ *For more info or to join the trip, email [newsletterdcgs@gmail.com](mailto:newsletterdcgs@gmail.com).*

## ANCESTOR QUESTION OF THE MONTH

*This month we wanted to hear about your long-lived ancestors. Which ancestor lived the longest? What did they attribute their longevity to? What do you think contributed to their long life? Thanks to **Laura Douglas** for the topic suggestion.*

**Missy McCormick** shares, “My grandmother, Miriam Finks Gregory, lived to be 93 years of age (d. 1982). She was well educated for a woman of her time! She earned a BA in 1910 (UT Austin) and followed her education by teaching high school language classes. In 1918, she taught Spanish and French at a high school in Boyd, Texas, and later she taught as a substitute Latin teacher in McKinney, Texas. She was very active in the McKinney community, having served on the original boards of the McKinney Memorial Public Library and the Heard Museum. After the passing of my grandfather, she moved to Garland – still an active community member. Later in life, she lived with my family in San Antonio before passing away in 1982. Throughout her life, she was very active and engaged with her community and family, which was probably instrumental in her living such a long life.”



“Susan Christine Guggolz Danklefs Watson Allen (Susie), my maternal grandmother, was born in Perry, Texas, on April 1, 1882, and died on September 8, 1984,” shares **Fran Shurtleff**. “I believe she would say that her faith was the biggest factor in her longevity. Her church was always a major part of her life. She was a seamstress, sometimes for pay but sometimes not, depending on her need. She was mother to five children and survived three husbands. She was definitely a strong woman. She lived alone in a duplex in San Antonio until she fell at age 98 and had to live in a nursing home for the remainder of her life.”

**Sandra Robertson** writes, “My mother Willie Mae West Dockrey was 102 years old when she died. Her father lived to be 93. Her eight siblings, except for one brother who died at 79, lived into their 80s and 90s. Mother always kept a jar of bacon grease to use in cooking—especially good in green beans. She never went into a gym or exercised. She was never overweight. I never heard Mother comment on the causes of her long life, but I think genetics were a major factor.”



Louise Kozlina (top left) with extended family on the porch of the duplex in Fayette Co., Pennsylvania.

“Vjekoslava Baltorinich—later known as Louise Kozlina—my Croatian great-grandmother, lived to be 91 years old, outliving all the ancestors I know of,” writes **Nancy Gilbride Casey**. “She immigrated to the U.S. in 1905 when she was 23, married my great-grandfather six months later in Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, and lived in a coal patch town. Louise was highly involved in her community and stayed close to other immigrant families through her church and various Croatian fraternal organizations. She outlived her husband Frank by nearly 30 years. She remained close with her children and extended family as a succession of relatives shared a side-by-side duplex house with her. I’m certain that Louise’s strong constitution and the support and love of a close-knit family and community sustained her into her later years.”



## MEMBERCONNECT: NEWS, TIPS, & RESOURCES

**Minna Marinko** shares her good news: “I just successfully completed the National Genealogical Society's Advanced Skills Course. Whew! It took two years, but I was able to use a great-grandfather as the subject of the assignments. I am stunned how much I uncovered about him. Turns out, he was quite the rascal :-) I found the course intense, time-consuming, challenging, rewarding, and expensive—but worth the investment.” *Congrats, Minna!* Link: <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/advskills/>.”

**Minna** also shares this resource: “Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, has all of its deed records readily available online, **FREE** of charge. You can search by a name, by address, by plat, by book/page. The images are readable and downloadable. It's only one county, but if you know someone in Oklahoma County, it's great.” Link: <https://www.okcc.online/>.

**Melissa Sampson** writes, “After searching for many years, I finally located a male descendant of prominent early Denton County resident William Crow Wright to submit a Y-DNA sample to determine the haplogroup of this family. The results show we belong to R-M512, Group 1. William Crow Wright's father is well documented as James G. Wright who died in Lamar County, Texas, in 1843. I haven't found any written record of James' parentage. No wills, deeds, bible notations, nothing. Someone on Ancestry named Daniel Wright (1759-1838) of Madison County, Alabama, as James' father and now that misinformation is everywhere and has been for many years. Daniel belongs in haplogroup R-M269, Group 1, and could not possibly be James' father. Two men who matched all 37 markers of my tester's Y-DNA results have a common ancestor in Francis Wright (wife Mary Hawkins) of Amherst, Virginia, who died there in 1767. This places us in a family group but more research is needed to identify exact lineage.”

**Emily Richardson** shares a new **FREE** genealogy interview program sponsored by the Family History Academy. Titled “The Snapshot Interviews,” the series features 30-minute interactive conversations with some of today's leading voices in genealogy and family history, including Catherine Desmarais, Michael Ramage, Blaine Bettinger, Nathan Dylan Goodwin, Judy Russell, Tom Jones, and many more. Learn more and sign up for this **FREE** series of interviews (which begin Feb. 12), at <https://www.familyhistoryacademy.com.au/snapshot-interviews/>.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER (CONT.)

search it was easy to see the reason for that memory: to the right of the house was an intersecting street, not another house!

**Idea Two: Use a photo of a group of ancestors and make up a conversation they may have had.**

It could be about the day's work, resolving a homestead problem, connecting with close

relatives on various matters (property, children, business issues, etc.), etc. Or describe a meal that was appropriate to the time and location. Was food obtained from farming activity?

There is no limit to the approaches you may take. Use your imagination!

—Robert Lane, President  
[presidentdcs@gmail.com](mailto:presidentdcs@gmail.com)



# LIBRARY NEWS: A SPECIAL VOLUNTEER AND PROGRAM UPDATE

## *A Special Thank You*

At the Texas State Genealogical Society awards ceremony in November, it was announced that I received a Presidential Citation for developing the program, Connections: A Genealogical Discussion Group. The program at Denton Public Library led to the creation of the *Stirpes* Study Group which takes the Connections concept and offers materials to TxSGS Partner Societies and libraries statewide.

While I cannot give her a TxSGS Presidential Citation, I want to extend recognition to **Kathy Lawrence** who is the co-creator of the Connections program and has been integral to its success. Since day one Kathy has been the author of the discussion questions for each article, creating questions that provide a creative and thought-provoking starting point for the monthly discussion. I can honestly say that the Connections discussion group would not happen without her support.

Thank you, Kathy!

—Laura Douglas

## *Upcoming Library Programs*

- ◇ **Writing Your Memories with Emily\***  
Part 2 of a two-part workshop will help you get started writing your family history. In session two, you'll share your plan and story begun last month, refine your goals, and look at sample finished products. Presented by Emily Richardson. **Fri 2/14, 10–a.m.-12 p.m.**
- ◇ **Connections: A Genealogy Study Group** Join us for a group that explores genealogical research through discussion of articles published in the TxSGS journal *Stirpes*. Register to receive the focus article and a list of questions to guide our conversation. This group is for anyone interested in learning more about genealogical research and the historical context of their family history. **Fri 2/28, 11 a.m.** Article: “Rachel - A Story of Emancipation,” by Diane L. Richard, published in *Stirpes*, 9/2019.
- ◇ Register for either program at the DPL Events page: <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>



February 28, 2025  
11 a.m.  
Emily Fowler Library

Please register to gain access to the featured article and discussion questions.



The Journal of the Texas State Genealogical Society

## ***ABOUT THE SOCIETY***

Founded in 1979, the ***Denton County Genealogical Society*** (DCGS) has been serving area genealogy researchers for 46 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](mailto:membershipdcgs@gmail.com).



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

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