



2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT

DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

This report covers September 2017 through August 2018.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

Completing my first year as President of the Dallas Genealogical Society I continue to be amazed with the skill, dedication and passion of the board, directors and all volunteers. They truly power the Society!

The work established over the years continues with the Society:

- Society seminars continue to provide nationally recognized experts that deliver outstanding sessions that are receive excellent feedback from attendees.
- General meetings and Special Interest Groups provide top notch presentations and discussions.
- Society leadership through the 2nd North Texas Society Summit.
- Support to organizations that foster knowledge sharing, preservation and information repositories.

The Dallas Genealogical Society has done an outstanding job of living up to its Mission Objectives: Educate, Preserve and Support the Dallas Public Library in a positive and inclusive manner.

Todd DeDecker

President, Dallas Genealogical Society
2017-18

The Society

The Dallas Genealogical Society is organized and operated as a non-profit tax-exempt Section 501(c)(3) organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Service. The mission of the organization is defined in our articles of incorporation and focuses on three primary areas: education; preservation; and providing support for the Genealogy Section of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas, Texas.

2017-18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Board

- **Todd DeDecker** President
- **Kristin Moore / Jim Thornhill** Vice President
- **Travis Tynes** Treasurer
- **Caroline Simpson** Secretary
- **Past President** Tony Hanson

Directors

- **Lisa Ross** Director of Education
- **Gloria Goodwin** Director of Membership
- **Harmon Adair** Director of Printing & Distribution
- **Patti Smith** Director of Volunteer Coordination

Advisors

- **Jim Thornhill** IT Administration
- **Susan Rainwater** Webmaster
- **Jimmy Walters** Sales Manager
- **Library Liaison** Gayla Bush

Activities & Accomplishments

TO EDUCATE – CREATE, FOSTER AND MAINTAIN INTEREST IN GENEALOGY

General meetings

Our monthly meetings are an important component of our educational mission. They are free and open to the public and consist of a brief business meeting followed by an educational presentation of interest to our attendees. Thanks to the scheduling efforts of Lisa Ross, our Director of Education, we were honored to have the following speakers and presentations.

- **September 9, 2017** – DGS member David Passman shared the results of his research and discussed the use of collateral lines as a research methodology.
- **October 14, 2017** – Dr. Steven Butler presented on John Neely Bryan. His is the author of 'John Neely Bryan: The Father of Dallas', a biography.
- **November 4, 2017** - Thatcher Freund, a journalist and memoir writer, talked about the importance of stories in our lives; both to ourselves and to the work we do in researching our family histories, and why it matters so much that we preserve them.
- **January 6, 2018** - Bill Buckner, Waco-McLennan County Library presented "1890 Census Substitutes: Bridging the Gap" on strategies for crossing the abyss of the destroyed 1890 Census. 45 Attendees.
- **February 3, 2018** - Bill Covington presented "Black Courage" which covers African-Americans serving on both sides of the Revolutionary War.
- **March 3, 2018** - Migration through the South – DGS VP Jim Thornhill discussed what motivated our ancestors to come to America, how travel developed in the United States, focusing on the south, and how we can use that information to identify the means our ancestors might have used to get to where we live today. 49 Attendees.
- **April 7, 2018** - Lynell Moss presented "FamilySearch Family Tree: Your Tree, My Tree, OUR Tree." 39 Attendees.
- **May 5, 2018** - Patti Gillespie presented "Proving Long-Lost Family the Indirect Way." 39 Attendees.

The society continues to create a video recording of each General Meeting made available on our website within a few days of each meeting. In addition, several of our speakers consented to have recordings of their presentations, which were also available for varying periods of time following their presentations.

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Special Interest Groups

The Dallas Genealogical Society sponsors several Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to provide members with an opportunity to meet and work with other genealogists on specialized topics.

Total attendance for all groups for this period was 512.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS			
GROUP	LEAD	ATTENDEES	FREQUENCY
African American	Lois Lilly	229	Monthly
Brown Bag	Janet Khashab / Liz Kutz	42	Monthly
DNA	Mic Barnette / Barbara Ware	92	Monthly
Jewish	Liz Kutz	6	Monthly
MacGen	Happi McQuirk	25	Bi-Monthly
Technology	Suzan Younger	85	SEP-MAY
Next Generation Sitebuilder	Tresa Tatyrek	15	Quarterly
Roots Magic	Tresa Tatyrek	18	Quarterly

Public Presentations

January 27, 2018

The Dallas Genealogy Society (Lisa Ross, Tony Hanson, Kathleen Murray, Patti Smith with library staff) presented an introduction to genealogy for the Jack and Jill of America Dallas Chapter. There were 15 adults and 14 children present. Afterwards they came to the 8th floor to perform research on their families with printed materials and the computers. Feedback was very positive and suggested future collaboration between the two organizations.

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SEMINARS

DGS seminars represent a significant portion of our annual income and further the education element of our mission. We bring nationally recognized speakers and also attendees to learn from experts in their fields.

Post event surveys are sent electronically to all attendees. The results continue to show the quality and value of the seminars.

Fall 2017

D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS – Resource Goldmines: Societies, Religion, & Politics

163 Attendees. 95% of survey respondents rated this event 'Very Satisfied' or 'Extremely Satisfied'.

Saturday, September 30, 2017

- Session 1: Beyond Belief: The Wealth of Genealogical and Historical Societies
- Session 2: Online Resources: Religious Archives and Organizations
- Session 3: Printed Legends and Missing Footnotes: Dissecting 19th and 20th Century Compiled Genealogies
- Session 4: Untapped Resources: Your Ancestors' Political Affiliations

Spring 2018

Michael L Strauss, AG – Revolution to Reconstruction: Seeking Those Who Shaped America

96 Attendees. 96% of survey respondents rated this event 'Very Satisfied' or 'Extremely Satisfied'.

Saturday, March 31, 2018

- Session 1: Revolutionary War Genealogical Research
- Session 2: Manifest Destiny: Researching Your Mexican War Ancestors
- Session 3: Refugees, Claims, and Conscription: Researching Your Ancestors during the Reconstruction Era
- Session 4: More than Just Politics: Genealogical Research in Washington, DC

Summer 2018

J. Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA – Way Down Home: Tracing Your Southern Roots

103 Attendees. 98% of survey respondents rated this event 'Very Satisfied' or 'Extremely Satisfied'.

Saturday, August 4, 2018

- Session 1: Finding Uncle John by Talking to the Neighbors
- Session 2: Finding Black Roots in a White World
- Session 3: The Migration Triangle: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee
- Session 4: Circuit Riders and the Early Methodist Church

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

North Texas Society Summit

The Dallas Genealogical Society hosted the second North Texas Society Summit on Friday, September 29, 2017. The theme of the event was 'Collaboration Among Societies', and our featured speaker was D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS (www.djoshuataylor.com).

The Summit was structured for leaders of genealogical societies in the North Texas area (TSGS Districts 7 through 12, 14, 16 and 17) and focused on priority topics identified by participants at the 2016 Society Summit. Twenty societies participated in this event.

Sessions:

- Retaining & Increasing Membership
- Marketing & Social Media
- **D. Joshua Taylor** – “Finding Your Potential” – An inspirational look at what a society (or societies together) can do in 2017!
- Society Management & Leadership
- Fundraising
- **D. Joshua Taylor** – “What Now: Turning Steps into Collaborative Action”

Details and recordings are available at <https://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/north-texas-society-summit/>

Annual Awards

The Dallas Genealogy Society annually recognizes individuals and organizations for their contributions towards the goals of the society. These awards are presented at our annual Awards Lunch.

The event was held on December 9, 2017 in the in O'Hara Hall at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library

2017 AWARD RECIPIENTS

AWARD	RECIPIENT
President's Special Award	Ken Johnston
Renee Jackson Smith Award	Linda & Bob Lane
Award of Merit	Jean Larson
Volunteer of the Year	Susan Rainwater
Heritage Preservation Award	Tony Hanson
Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award	Fred Moss

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TO COLLECT, PRESERVE AND INDEX INFORMATION RELATED TO DALLAS COUNTY AND ITS EARLY HISTORY

McGowan Funeral Home Records

The McGowan funeral home operated in South Dallas from 1955 until the 1990's.

The Dallas Public Library holds the collection of records from the McGowan home. It is currently housed on the 8th floor in the administrative area and is not accessible to the public without prior arrangement. It contains client/deceased files which may include obituaries, photographs, funeral pamphlets, death certificates, and related materials. A small portion of the collection pertains to the administrative/office functions of running the funeral home, which held city, county, and VA contracts for local ambulances serving several nearby counties. This collection is a great resource for African American burial practices in the late twentieth century.

Members of the African American Genealogical Interest Group have been creating a digital index of these records. A database containing information from the records that have been indexed so far has been made available on the Society website.

In October Tony Hanson created a web interface to speed up the indexing effort. This tool allows multiple to enter information at the same time and has the added advantage of adding the information directly into the database. As a result, new records are available to the web search interface immediately after they are entered.

Cemetery Records

Under the leadership of Barbara Ware, Suzan Younger and other members we have continued our tradition of publishing cemetery records by maintaining a database of Dallas County burials. Our focus is on historical cemeteries, and our methodology ensures that all burials (not just those with tombstones) are recorded. The nearly 40,000 records in our database are freely accessible to the public.

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Society Records

This year the society accumulated copies of virtually all Quarterly Newsletters/Journals created between 1955 and 1994 and initiated plans to have them digitized and archived on The Portal to Texas History at a cost of approximately \$4100. The Dallas Public Library will make copies of the missing issues available to be digitized to ensure that the effort results in a complete, high quality set of images.

Financial Results:

- \$429.00 – Cash Donations made at DGS meetings
- \$590.00 – Credit Card and Check donations
- \$2,701.48 – North Texas Giving Day 2017
- \$1000.00 – Rescuing Texas History Grant from the University of North Texas Libraries

Publication is anticipated to be in 2019-20.

Cathy Nelson Hartman Portal to Texas History Endowment Fund

The Portal is an online preservation repository for a wealth of Texas related publications, documents, and images, including the DGS Journals, Pegasus, and (soon) our Quarterlies. Contributing funds to the Portal is consistent with the DGS mission to “collect, preserve, copy, and index information relating to Dallas County and its early history”. The Dallas Genealogy Society donated \$7500 in 2017.

In 2016, DGS donated \$5239.73 to the Portal. (\$2500 came from Society funds and the balance was donated during the 2016 North Texas Day of Giving).

The Portal is in the 3rd year of an effort to raise \$1.5 million dollars, which would trigger a \$500,000 NEH challenge grant. They hope to raise \$750,000 this year. Our \$7,500 contribution will help reach that goal!

Texas General Land Office Endowment

The preservation, digitization and educational activities of the Texas General Land Office are in perfect alignment with the goal and objectives of the Dallas Genealogical Society. DGS members and supporters recognize the importance of repositories and are proud to be supporting the ongoing efforts to preserve and digitize documents that will be available to current and future generations of researchers.

The donation from the Dallas Genealogical Society will be used to preserve the Peters Colony Records. The Texas General Land Office will match the Society’s generous \$7500 donation thereby allowing the entire Peters Colony Records and Peters Colony map to be preserved and conserved.

The work will flatten, re-sleeve, and re-house these records into archival boxes in order to make sure they are preserved. The records will also be digitized and make them available online – which has never been an

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

option until now. The Peters colony archival collection is geographically relevant for Dallas/Dallas County, as well as a large part of North Texas.

This will also allow the conservation of an 1858 Map of the Surveyed Part of Peters Colony. This is a beautiful map, with one of the great title blocks in our collection. This item is 46×58.5 inches (very large) and is laminated. The Dallas Genealogical Society will be identified as the “Adopter” of the entire Peters Colony Records Collection, and the 1858 map of Peters Colony. The Dallas Genealogical Society’s name will appear with each individual document and map in their searchable Land Grant Database and Map Database.

TO ASSIST AND SUPPORT THE GENEALOGY SECTION OF THE J. ERIK JONSSON CENTRAL LIBRARY IN DALLAS, TEXAS

Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library - \$5,500

It is the Society’s pleasure to fund the acquisition of some 125+ Hispanic genealogy books for the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library. This donation reflects the Society’s core mission to support the Genealogy Section since the Society’s inception in 1955.

Because many Hispanic genealogy books are not available through traditional library acquisition channels, a considerable amount of out-of-the box research was needed to identify these books. Stephanie Bennett, a librarian in the Genealogy Section, devoted the necessary time and talent to achieve this result!

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SOCIETY ADMINISTRATION

Membership

Society membership levels vary throughout the year as memberships expire and are renewed, so the number of members varies from month to month. The most meaningful measure to report is the average number of members for the reporting period, which was 424 (excluding Library and Exchange) members. For the previous year the average was 431.

A snapshot of the various membership types as of September 9, 2017 is provided below.

MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT: SEPTEMBER 09, 2017	
TYPE	COUNT
Individual	234
Household	49
Associate	41
Lifetime	100
Library	3
Exchange	38

Newsletter

Karan Marshall began the year as Newsletter editor and continued publishing the newsletter using the refreshed format. eNews is the monthly publication of the Dallas Genealogy Society keeping members and others interested in information about upcoming meetings and events as well as other Society news.

Sales & Contributions

Under the leadership of Jimmy Walters, the sale of items by the society has continued at a steady pace.

Corporate Contributions

DGS members have had the ability to designate the Society as a recipient of a matching corporate donation for three different companies:

- Tom Thumb Groceries
- Kroger Groceries
- Amazon.com

Income from these three sources was \$483.18 during this period.

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Grants & Fundraising

Rescuing Texas History Grant

The society received another “Rescuing Texas History” grant from The Portal to Texas History valued at \$1000 in fall 2018. The grant, and funds raised through donations, will be used to complete the digitization of society newsletters (SEP 1976 - JAN 2015). Once digitized the images will be archived on The Portal to Texas History.

North Texas Giving Day

The Dallas Genealogical Society participated in the 2018 North Texas Giving Day event with the goal of raising funds for the preservation of society documents (society newsletters SEP 1976 – JAN 2015).

\$1830.03 was raised during the event.

Awards

2017 Texas State Genealogical Society Award

The Dallas Genealogical Society was awarded \$50.00 for third place in the category of Website for a TxSGS Partner Society.

Insurance

The Society maintains two insurance policies obtained through the Nonprofits Insurance Alliance Group:

- Directors and Officers coverage
- General Liability coverage

Infrastructure

The Society continued its use of a variety of free and fee based technological tools and resources to provide information and services to our members.

Neon

Neon is a fee based commercial service offering from Z2 Systems that provides a wide range of services for not-forprofit organizations like the Dallas Genealogical Society. It is a stand-alone application that is used to provide the following services:

- Member Account management
- Seminar and Special Event Registration
- Credit Card management
- Sales of DGS products

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Vertical Response

This is a service used to create and distribute email messages. These services are provided at no cost to nonprofit organizations like the Dallas Genealogical Society. This service is used to distribute our Newsletter (eNews) and to send targeted solicitations and information to our members and others who want to receive information about society activities.

Web Hosting

The Dallas Genealogical Society utilizes two fee-based web hosting services. One supports our production website and the other is used for testing and development. In addition, a fee based commercial cloud-based service is used to archive our collection of digital images.

Our website is now based on the widely used WordPress platform.

Voicemail

Kall8, a fee based commercial service, is used to manage our voicemail services. This service digitally records calls made to the society and sends them as conventional email.

Online Meetings

The Society maintains an annual subscription to GoToMeeting which is utilized by officers and SIG leaders for society purposes.

Social Media

The society also makes use of Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Dropbox, Hootsuite, and Google Analytics.

Storage Closet

The Dallas Public Library generously provides the DGS with the use of a storage closet located in the staff area on the 8th floor of the Dallas Public Library.

Google G-Suite

This service is free for not-for-profit organizations like the Dallas Genealogy Society. It provides organization email, document storage and other features for business.

Microsoft O365 Enterprise

This business class service is for not-for-profits like the Dallas Genealogy Society. It includes email, file storage and sharing, Office Online, meetings and IM, and more. The Society uses it for board communication.

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FINANCE

Audit Committee

As required by our bylaws (Article XI, Section 2), a financial review committee was formed to review the Society's fiscal year financial transactions in accordance with current official procedures established by the Board of Directors. The financial committee consisted of the following: Gloria Goodwin, Caroline Simpson and Todd DeDecker. The review was performed in February 2018.

The records maintained by the Treasurer for 2016-17 were found to be organized and orderly.

The main item identified to improve financial handling for the Society was to store payment forms (with attached receipts) to the Society repository (Google Shared Drive).

This was discussed and approved in the March 2018 Dallas Genealogy Society board meeting.

Financial Overview

The society benefited from a successful fund-raising campaign and the operation of three popular Seminars which generated income at the highest level seen in recent years.

The financial status of the society as of September 30, 2018 is as follows

- \$37,033.73 - Total Income
- \$57,595.52 - Total Expenses
- \$7,115.59 - Management and General Expenses

Please refer to the Dallas Genealogical Society Statement of Financial Position (September 30, 2018) for more details regarding society finances.