



2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT

DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

This report covers September 2018 through August 2019.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

This has been another outstanding year for the society. With the dedicated and passionate team in place, we were able to provide outstanding value and education opportunities to our members and the North Texas community as well as support for the Dallas Public Library. This leadership team continues to dazzle.

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. All three seminars achieved 98% satisfied or very satisfied results. A big thanks to Jim Thornhill and his outstanding team!
- General meetings and Special Interest Groups provide top notch presentations and discussions.
- Society leadership through the 3rd North Texas Society Summit.
- A massive focus on the J. Erik Jonsson Central Dallas Public to provide a digitization lab along with state-of-the-art equipment.

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

This marks the end of my term as President of the Dallas Genealogical Society. It has been a distinct honor and privilege to serve and represent the society. I am proud of all the accomplishments made by the board and leaders over these last two years. Simply a first-rate organization. I leaned heavily on the board this year and want to give special thanks to Tony Hanson, Immediate Past President, friend and mentor.

I look forward to the future successes of the Dallas Genealogical Society! The leadership and outlook never looked brighter.

Todd DeDecker
President, Dallas Genealogical Society
2018-19

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.

2018-19 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Board

- **Todd DeDecker** President
- **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
- **Sharon Bowles** Director of Publicity/Public Relations
- **Suzan Younger** Director for Publication Content
- **Patti Smith** Director of Volunteer Coordination

Advisors

- **Jim Thornhill** IT Administration
- **Susan Rainwater** Webmaster
- **Jimmy Walters** Sales Manager
- **Library Liaison** Stephanie Bennett

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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 8, 2018** – Betsy Mills on the subject of “Dating, Preserving, and Sharing Old Photos.”
- **October 6, 2018** – Greg Boyd’s presentation on the mapping tools available at <http://HistoryGeo.com>.
- **November 3, 2018** - Stephanie Bennett, Dallas Public Library, covered the genealogical resources at the Dallas Public Library.
- **January 5, 2019** - Bernard N. Meisner, Ph.D. presenting "State and Territorial Censuses – Underused Genealogical Tools."
- **February 2, 2019** - Ari Wilkins, Dallas Public Library, on the subject of "Incorporating Oral History into Your Research."
- **March 2, 2019** - Tony Hanson, Dallas Genealogy Society, presented on the timely topic, “How to avoid becoming a victim of cybercrime.”
- **April 6, 2019** - Patti Todd Gillespie presented “Military Pensions: Vital Records in Disguise!”
- **May 4, 2019** - Victor Chapa presented “StoryCorps: Preserving Oral Histories.”

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.

The Brown Bag SIG was rebranded to the Best Practices SIG. Ther Next Generation Sitebuilder SIG retired and the Family Tree Maker SIG was created.

Total attendance for all groups for this period was 564.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS			
GROUP	LEAD	ATTENDEES	FREQUENCY
African American	Lois Lilly	202	Monthly
Brown Bag / Best Practices	Janet Khashab / Liz Kutz	45	Monthly
DNA	Mic Barnette / Barbara Ware	165	Monthly
Jewish	Liz Kutz	12	Monthly
MacGen	Happi McQuirk	26	Bi-Monthly
Technology	Suzan Younger	68	SEP-MAY
Family Tree Maker	Tresa Tatyrek	27	Quarterly
Roots Magic	Tresa Tatyrek	19	Quarterly

Genealogy Network of Texas

October 19, 2018: This state-wide initiative connects libraries and societies to provide educational and research opportunities for the public. The GNT will provide a series of eight live streamed programs with up-to-date topics accessible at participating libraries and genealogical societies.

The Dallas Genealogical Society is proud to participate, offering Genealogy Research Mentors to assist with beginning your family tree to helping break down brick walls. In addition, several DGS members will be making local, live presentations throughout the day on a variety of topics.

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 alooe 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 2018

David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FUGA, FIGRS – Irish Genealogical Research: Finding your ancestors on the emerald isle

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

Saturday, September 29, 2018

- Session 1: Introduction to Irish Internet Sites
- Session 2: Irish Church Records - Church of Ireland; Presbyterian, Catholic
- Session 3: Chasing the Poor and the Landless
- Session 4: Irish Estate, Land & Property Records

Spring 2019

Michael D. Lacopo, D.V.M. – A Method to our Madness: Sound Methodology for Successful Research

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

Saturday, April 13, 2019

- Session 1: Deconstructing Your Family Tree: Re-evaluating the Evidence
- Session 2: "She came from nowhere..." – A case study approach to a difficult genealogical problem
- Session 3: Methods for identifying the German origins of American immigrants
- Session 4: Incorporating social history into your research

Summer 2019

Judy Russell, JD, CG, CGL - Tracing Your Ancestors Through Courthouse Records

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

Saturday, August 3, 2019

- Session 1: That First Trip to the Courthouse
- Session 2: Property Rights and Wrongs – African-Americans at the Courthouse
- Session 3: Polls, Personality and Property – Making Sense of Tax Lists
- Session 4: Making a Federal Case Out of It

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

North Texas Society Summit

The Dallas Genealogical Society hosted the third North Texas Society Summit on Friday, September 28, 2018. The theme of the event was 'Focus on Members', and our featured speaker was David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FUGA, FIGRS.

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 2017 Society Summit. 18 societies participated in this event with 40 total attendees.

Sessions:

- Panel: Meetings, New Members, Social Media, Remote Members, Volunteers, Beginning Researchers
 - Panelists:
 - Dickie Dixon, Angelina County Genealogical Society
 - John Wylie, Grand Prairie Genealogical Society
 - Cheryl Rasher, Erath County Genealogical Society
 - Tony Hanson, Dallas Genealogical Society
 - Table discussions followed on these topics with table readouts to the group
- Table Exercise: Draft an Action Plan for Key Issues Related to Members **OR** Design a New Genealogy Club followed by readouts to the group
- **David Rencher:** Future Vision for Genealogical Societies

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 8, 2018 in the in O'Hara Hall at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library

2018 AWARD RECIPIENTS	
AWARD	RECIPIENT
President's Special Award	Tony Hanson
Renee Jackson Smith Award	Ken Johnston
Award of Merit	Gloria Goodwin
Volunteer of the Year	Lisa Ross
Heritage Preservation Award	DGS African-American SIG
Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award	Kelvin Myers

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kenyatta D. Berry

On December 20, 108, the Dallas Genealogical Society in partnership with the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library hosted a unique program to the public in the Auditorium of the library at 1515 Young Street, Dallas.

“Conversation with Kenyatta” featured the nationally known professional genealogist and host of Genealogy Roadshow (PBS), Kenyatta D. Berry, who was on a 20-city book tour launching her new book *The Family Tree Toolkit, A Comprehensive Guide to Uncovering Your Ancestry and Researching Genealogy*. Friend of the society Lisa Louisa Cooke facilitated the event which had over 100 attendees.

The Big Family Search

The Dallas Genealogical Society’s African American Genealogical Interest Group and the Dallas Public Library sponsored a special presentation by Pamela Bailey on Saturday, February 16 in the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library Auditorium. Author Pamela Bailey shared her journey of discovering and reuniting her large multi-racial family, all descended from enslaved African Americans from the Pez Dee region of South Carolina.

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.

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.

Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck Papers

Work began in January 2018 to organize 16+ file drawers of papers and files collected by the esteemed genealogist and librarian over his 30-year career. The team consisted of Suzan Younger, Tony Hanson, Patrick McKinney, Kathleen Murray, Kelvin Meyers, Sammie Lee, Terri O'Neil, Jean Larsen, and Barbara Ware.

The bulk of the organizational work was completed in November 2018 with Lloyd's legacy sorted into 16 distinct categories or series. This includes Research and Lectures, which includes notes and resources for everything from African Americans to Migration to Royal Bastards. It also includes bibliographies and many of the original images used in Lloyd's overheads.

Work on moving each series into archival folders is underway. The next steps will involve placing the folders in archival boxes and finalizing the finding aid, which will be available online. Much of the collection will remain on the 8th floor, while some biographical series will be on the 7th floor in the Archives. Typical archival access procedures will be used by patrons and researchers to use the collection.

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Society Records

For 2018 we set a goal of raising \$2,570 to preserve our historical newsletters. Published from 1976 through 2015, these newsletters document the activities of the society during its most active period and contain articles and information that are of interest to historians and family history researchers. Once digitized, the images will be publicly available on the Portal to Texas History.

Financial Results:

- \$1,830.03 – North Texas Giving Day 2018
- \$1000.00 – Rescuing Texas History Grant from the University of North Texas Libraries

Publication is anticipated to be in 2020.

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

Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck Scholarship - \$7,500

During the 2018 Awards Luncheon the Dallas Genealogical Society donated \$7,500 to establish a scholarship in honor of long-time member Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck who passed away in May 2018. The fund will be used to provide genealogical training for members of the library staff over the next five years.

The scholarship was created in partnership with the Dallas Public Library Friends of the Library. This donation will support 5 years of scholarships.

Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library - \$35,500

At the 2018 Awards Luncheon, the Dallas Genealogical Society “turned over the keys” to the Jo Giudice, DPL Director, of the newly built room on the 8th floor (completed in July 2018 at a cost of \$16,700) used for digitization equipment and activities. This space is housing a new, state of the art i2s CopiBook scanner that was purchased for use by library staff, local Genealogical Societies and library patrons to digitize documents. This \$35,500 donation is the latest in a long line of donations from DGS to DPL in support of their genealogy department.

DGS is grateful for the gift of so many supporters’ dedicated work towards our goals. We are proud to use those contributions of time, brain power, and funds to provide significant support for the excellent work of our DPL Genealogy and History Section allies.

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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 369 (excluding Library and Exchange) members. For the previous year the average was 424.

A snapshot of the various membership types as of September 3, 2018 is provided below.

MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT: SEPTEMBER 09, 2017	
TYPE	COUNT
Individual	217
Household	40
Associate	25
Lifetime	96
Library	4
Exchange	38

Newsletter

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. This position was vacant this year but under the steady hands of Tony Hanson and Suzan Younger was successfully published.

Sales & Contributions

This position was retired by the Board of Directors in October 2018.

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 \$557.50 during this period.

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Grants & Fundraising

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-for-profit 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

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.

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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: Todd DeDecker, Travis Tynes, Tony Hanson, Suzan Rainwater and Suzan Younger.

This audit should have been completed in late 2018 but was delayed due to personal and health related issues encountered by Travis Tynes, the Treasurer.

The records maintained by the Treasurer for 2017-18 were found to be organized and orderly. The Treasurer continued to use Quicken to track all financial transactions and enable the generation of reports as needed.

The following items were identified to improve financial handling for the Society:

- Payment forms were not stored in the Society repository (Google Shared Drive).
- Pre-printed forms created for seminars, monthly meetings and other events with cash donations.
- Cash donations should be counted by two people and placed in a sealed envelope.
- Images of payment forms have not been stored in Quicken.
- Monthly, automated payments to Neon have been monitored. Forms are not required, but this has been added to the IT Administrators responsibilities to ensure the Society is aware of current charges.
- Two items (duplicate check, printing payment) were flagged for follow-up.

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, 2019 is as follows

- \$33,970.66 - Total Income
- \$65,575.24 - Total Expenses
- \$6,897.51 - Management and General Expenses

Please refer to the Dallas Genealogical Society Statement of Financial Position (September 30, 2019) for more details regarding society finances.