



DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

EXPLORE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY WITH US

**Annual Report
September 2024 – August 2025**

Overview

The Dallas Genealogical Society is a non-profit tax-exempt Section 501(c)(3) organization that provides resources and services of interest to family history researchers in (or with an interest in) Dallas and North Texas. We partner with the Genealogy & History Division of the Dallas Public Library to provide services and educational activities that cultivate and nurture an interest in Family History Research.

We are committed to education, service, preservation, and keeping abreast of new developments in genealogical resources, technology, and information providers while pursuing these primary goals:

1. Educate by creating, fostering, and maintaining interest in Genealogy and Family History.
2. Assist and support the Genealogy & History Division of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas, Texas.
3. Collect, preserve, copy, and index information relating to Dallas County and its early history.

Society Leaders

- **Tony Hanson** – President
- **Sharon Bowles** – Vice President
- **Terry Turner** – Secretary
- **Susan Rainwater/Amy Halbbrook** – Director of Finance
- **Todd DeDecker** – Immediate Past President & Website Administrator
- **Melissa Fleming** – Director of Information Technology, NGS Delegate, TxSGS Delegate
- **Kim Edge** – Director of Membership
- **Courtney Barnes** (briefly), **Deleeta Dorsey** (briefly) – Director of Marketing
- **Barbara Coakley** – Seminar Administrator
- **Patricia Hernandez** – Director of Volunteer Coordination & Newsletter Editor
- **Michelle Dwyer Cohen** – Newsletter Editor
- **Carol Roark** – Director At-Large
- **Sue Gover-Lee** – General Meeting Administrator
- **Stephanie Bennett** – Library Liaison
- **NGS Delegate** – Linda Harrison
- **TxSGS Delegate** – Cheryl Freeman

Barbara Coakley resigned on January 15, 2025, due to health issues.

Susan Rainwater resigned in June 2025.



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Bylaw Changes

Several changes to the Society Bylaws were approved by the membership at the November 2, 2024 General Meeting.

- Elimination of the Publication Content board position.
- Term limits and prior board experience were removed from the office of President.
- The end of term process was clarified.

Committees

Budget Committee

The members of this year's budget committee were Amy Halbrook (Chair), Sue Gover-Lee, Pat Hernandez, Melissa Fleming and Tony Hanson.

Financial Review Committee

The committee consisted of Tony Hanson, Pat Hatcher, Carol Roark and Susan Rainwater (chair).

Hospitality

Betty Case.

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee, consisting of Michelle Dwyer Cohen, Tony Hanson, Susan Rainwater and Larry Webb.

Newsletter Committee

The members of this committee consisted of Michelle Cohen Dwyer (Newsletter Editor until April 2025), Jo Ann Graham, Susan Rainwater, Suzan Younger, Barbara Ware and Patricia Hernandez (editor from April 2025 forward).

Nominating Committee

The members of this year's nominating committee were Todd DeDecker, Kim Edge, Terry Turner, and Tony Hanson.

Membership

We have experienced a 12% decrease in membership over the past year.

September 2024

376 members

- 283 total Individual Members
- 17 Household Members



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- 22 Associate Members
- 54 Life Members

September 2025

331 members

- 241 total Individual Members
- 36 Household Members
- 6 Associate Members
- 48 Life Members

Education

General Meetings

We conduct 9 General Meeting each year. Each meeting consists of a short business meeting followed by an educational presentation on a topic of interest to Genealogists. Meetings are held at the Dallas Public Library (usually the downtown location) and are open to the public. Each meeting is also broadcast live via Zoom, and a recording of the meeting is also available on our website.

Meeting	Speaker & Topic	Total Audience*
September	Chris Bryant: Back to Basics: A Deeper Look in Genealogical Resources	233
October	Kim Richardson: Turn Your Brick Wall into a Yellow Brick Road	351
November	Janice Lovelace: Lunacy and Asylums: Mental Health in the 19th Century	83
December	John Slate: Genealogy Resources at the Dallas Municipal Archives	122
January	Sarah Cochran: Locating Records in Archives from Your Couch	138
February	Judy Russell: Your Family IS In the National Archives	139
March	Kathleen Murray: Irish Research: Discovering a Family Left Behind	651
April	LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson: Immigration & Naturalization, Texas Style.	79
May	Thomas MacEntee: Translating, Transcribing and Summarizing Documents Using AI	326

* Total Audience includes those attending in person, Zoom Participants and those who watched a recording of the meeting.

- Our General Meetings reached 2,122 people this year (compared to 1,182 in the previous year, a 79.5% increase).

Special Interest Groups

Our Special Interest Groups meet throughout the year to discuss issues and topics of interest to group participants. These meetings are open to the public: many of them are hybrid (allowing members to participate in-person or via Zoom).



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- **Brenda Cannon** – African American Group.
- **Elizabeth (Liz) Kutz & Betty Case** – Best Practices & Jewish Groups.
- **Mic Barnette & Jean Larson** – DNA Group.
- **Ann Broihier & Bernard Meisner** – German Genealogy Group.

	Attendance/Participation											Total	
AAGIG	20	15	6	16	23	19	23	18	11				151
Best Practices	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0		4
DNA	24		24		17		15		0				80
German	595		191		60		121		98				1065
Jewish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
	639	19	221	16	100	19	159	18	114	9	0	0	1305

Special Interest Group Attendance

At 1,305, this year's participation was 66% higher than the previous year (787)

Members of the African American Genealogy Interest Group initiated an effort to digitize the contents of the McGowan Funeral Home folders. The images will be maintained on the DPL's Recollect platform. The existing DGS index will link to those images.

Seminars

Seminars are the primary source of income for the Society. These are fee-based events held at the Dallas Public Library. They are hybrid, allowing participants to attend the seminar in-person or remotely via zoom. Recordings are also available to registered participants for two weeks following the Seminar.

This year's events were organized by Sharon Bowles and Barbara Coakley with the assistance of Kim Edge, Betty Case, Todd DeDecker, Kim Edge, Melissa Flemming, Tony Hanson, Pat Hernandez and many other volunteers too numerous to mention.

The Society is deeply indebted to member Ken Johnston for the outstanding artwork he created for each event.

Fall: [Blaine Bettinger \(148 registrants\)](#)



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DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ★ FALL 2024 SEMINAR

Autosomal Analysis:
Tools for Finding Your Ancestors
with **Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., JD.**
Enhance Your DNA Knowledge and Skills

SEPTEMBER 28

ATTEND IN PERSON or VIA ZOOM or RECORDING ★ REGISTER at dallasgenealogy.org

Spring: Ulster Historical Foundation (102 registrants)

DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ★ 2025 SPRING SEMINAR

Honoring Your Shamrocks:
Irish and Scots-Irish Research
presented by the
Ulster Historical Foundation
And on March 16th:
Individual, One-on-One Research Consultations
with **Fintan Mullan & Gillian Hunt**

MARCH 15 & 16

ATTEND IN-PERSON or VIA ZOOM or RECORDING ★ REGISTER at dallasgenealogy.org

Fintan and Gillian also provided (for a fee) one-on-one consultations at the library on the Sunday following the Seminar.

Summer: Colleen Robledo Greene (32 registrants)

DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2025 SUMMER SEMINAR

Somos Familia:
Tracing Your Mexican Ancestors
on Both Sides of the Border
with **Colleen Robledo Greene, MLIS, FTxSGS**

JULY 26

ATTEND IN-PERSON or VIA ZOOM or RECORDING REGISTER at dallasgenealogy.org



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Assist and support the Genealogy & History Division of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library

The Society has a long-standing history of supporting the Genealogy & History Division of the Dallas Public Library. The total value of the cash, books, microfiche, microfilm, equipment and other donations provided directly or indirectly by the Dallas Genealogical Society to the library is \$828,556.12. Donations made during this period include the following:

- The society donated \$4,610.00 to fund a service contract on the i2S CopiBook Scanner located in the 8th floor Heritage Lab).
- The society provided funds to provide library patrons with access to NewspaperArchive.com (\$4,142.00) and HistoryGeo.com (\$2,600.00).
- When the library stopped providing WiFi Hotspots for staff or patrons the society purchased a WiFi router (\$264.83) for use by the Genealogy and History department and is paying the annual usage fee (\$155).

Bockstruck Scholarships

The society provides scholarships of up to \$1,500 each year to be used by members of the Genealogy & History Division staff to fund attendance and participation at Genealogical Seminars and related events. This scholarship fund is managed on our behalf by the Friends of the Dallas Public library. \$7,500 was provided for this purpose in 2024.

- Kat Johnston participated in the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research.
- Alex Garza attended the Texas Hispanic Genealogy and History Conference hosted by Dallas branch of the Hispanic Organization for Genealogy and Research (HOGAR).

Collecting, Preserving and Copying Information

DGS Publications

- All DGS Newsletters, Journals and Quarterlies are indexed and linked to digital images on the DGS Website.
- We continue to add records to our online database of Cemetery Records: 307 records were added in the past year, bringing the total number of records available to the public on our website to 42,055.
- We have initiated an effort to add links to FindAGrave.com, BillionGraves.com, digitized death certificate images to each record in the database. 14,733 records have been indexed over the past year, bringing the number of total completed records to 15,892 (37.8%).



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Portal to Texas History Endowment Fund

The society received a bill for digitization performed in 2018. After payment, a balance of \$177.74 remained from funds raised for the project. In accordance with commitments made during the fundraising effort this was donated to the Cathy Nelson Hartman Portal to Texas History Endowment.

Web Enhancement

A Universal Search tool that allows website users to search all 8 databases from one screen was added in April.

Other Activities

Annual Awards

The society presented the following awards at the May Awards Luncheon based on recommendations of the Awards Committee (Tony Hanson (Chair), Terry Turner, Betty Case & Paula Perkins).

- **Sharon Bowles** – Award of Merit
- **Tom White** – Heritage Preservation Award
- **Kim Edge** – Volunteer of the Year
- **Cyndi Ingle** - Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award
- **Michelle Dwyer Cohen** – Presidents Special Award

North Texas Giving Day

The Society participated in the 2024 Campaign and raised a total of \$3,721.09 (an increase of \$333.20 over the previous year's total), which was used to offset the cost of providing access to HistoryGEO.com and NewspaperArchive.com.

Activities included a presentation on the 8th floor by Greg Boyd from HistoryGEO.com that was attended by 34 constituents.

Community Outreach

Presentations to Local Organizations

A "Beginning Genealogy" presentation was made for the following organizations:

- Foster Grandparent Program – The Senior Source (Tony Hanson)
- Juniper Village at Preston Hollow (Tony Hanson)
- The Outlook Windhaven in Plano (Sue Gover-Lee & Tony Hanson)
- Dallas Rotary (Sue Gover-Lee)

Area Events

The society was represented at several local events



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- October: DPL Family History Day, DPL Volunteer Day
- 44th annual Texas Hispanic Genealogy and History Conference
- Preservation Dallas Cemetery Tour – Mic Barnett from the Dallas Public Library staff participated in the tour using a pass for admission the Society received by being a sponsor of the event.
- November: DGS was an exhibitor and sponsor (Gold Level; \$500) at the Texas State Genealogical Society Annual Conference. The conference pass that was provided for this level of support was provided to the Genealogy & History section of the Dallas Public Library for use by their staff.
- January: Dallas Legacies Conference (\$500 sponsor level)
- Arlington Stake Family Education Day (March 22)
- North Texas Irish Festival: Sue Gover-Lee, Julie Leon, Barbara Ware, Melissa Fleming, Sharon Bowles, Kim Edge and Tony Hanson staffed the table at this 3-day event.
- Portal Partner Virtual Forum

Horton Family Cemetery

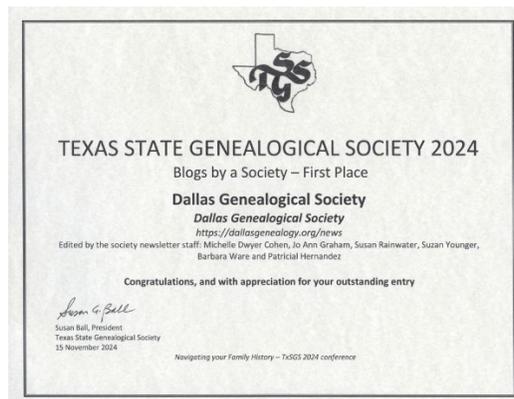
Tony Hanson and Kim Edge did extensive research on the history of the Horton Family Cemetery and worked with representatives of Preservation Dallas, the Dallas County Historical Commission, the City of Dallas Historic Preservation office and a archaeologist at the North Texas Archeological Society to initiate a Historic Cemetery designation.

Leadership Interest Survey

A survey was distributed in January: 141 constituents responded. This information was utilized by the Nominating Committee to identify and recruit volunteers and members for the 2025 – 2026 board.

Awards Received

Last Year's efforts by our newsletter team were rewarded with a 1st place finish in the annual Texas State Genealogical Society "Blogs by a Society" category.



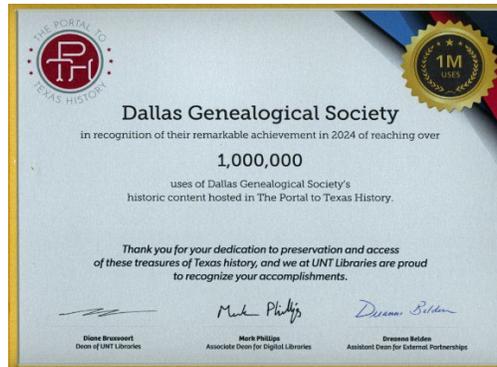


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The Dallas Genealogical Society was also recognized by the Portal to Texas History for surpassing 1,000,000 uses of our historic content on the Portal. We were the 1st Genealogical Society to reach this milestone.



Sharon Bowles was recognized as the Texas State Genealogical Society Volunteer of the Year.

JOURNAL OF THE TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Recognizing Sharon Bowles: TxSGS Volunteer of the Year

by Susan E. Ball

In the world of genealogy, the commitment and dedication of volunteers are essential to preserving history and making it accessible to others. TxSGS seeks to honor volunteers who make a transformative impact on local societies.

Sharon Bowles, the recipient of the Texas State Genealogical Society (TxSGS) Volunteer of the Year Award for 2024, personifies this spirit through her exceptional contributions to the Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS) and her community.

Leadership and Service in the Dallas Genealogical Society

Joining the DGS in 2012, Sharon quickly became a pivotal member, holding key positions such as secretary (2016-2017), director of marketing (2018-2022), and since 2023 as vice president overseeing DGS programs, seminars, and events. She stepped into the vice president role during a challenging time when several critical positions were vacated. Despite the hurdles, she successfully contributed to the seamless execution of seminars and events.

Sharon has been instrumental in modernizing the DGS's social media marketing, updating the membership brochure, and assisting with logistical tasks at meetings and seminars. Her hands-on approach and willingness to volunteer for any necessary task underscore her dedication.

Community Engagement and Library Contributions

Beyond her work with DGS, Sharon serves the broader community through various roles. She is an active volunteer with the Oakland Cemetery Association, the Network of Community Ministries in Richardson, and the Hall of State at the State Fair of Texas. Her efforts extend to preserving and cataloging burial records for the Oakland Cemetery, collaborating with FamilySearch to enhance the accessibility of these historical documents.



A Volunteer with Purpose

Sharon's philosophy of service is perhaps best summed up in her own words: "I like contributing to any group of which I am a member. I am always aware that someone is making those fun opportunities happen for the members, and I feel a responsibility to take on some of that effort." This mindset has made her an asset to the genealogical community and a deserving recipient of the TxSGS Volunteer of the Year Award.

Celebrating Sharon's Impact

Sharon Bowles' dedication, leadership, and passion have left a lasting impact on the genealogical community in Texas and beyond. Her recognition as TxSGS Volunteer of the Year serves as an inspiration for all who strive to preserve history and foster learning. Congratulations to Sharon Bowles and DGS on this well-deserved honor! ☆



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Financial Information

Financial Review Committee

The committee report stated:

“No recommendations for process improvement were made.

“Committee members with backgrounds in other similar organizations noted that the details, thoroughness and accuracy of the records being maintained far exceeded what has been observed in similar organizations and commended Susan Rainwater for her efforts. “

North Texas Giving Day

The society again participated in the annual North Texas Giving Day event, with the objective of raising \$6500 to provide patrons of the Dallas Public Library with access to NewsPapers.com and HistoryGEO.com. A total of \$3,387.89 was raised: The balance of the required funding was provided from Society funds.

Financial Summary

Our fiscal year begins on October 1. As reported at the October 2025 General Meeting the total funds on hand were \$183,326.24, slightly higher than the amount reported at the October, 2024 General Meeting.

	Oct-24	Oct-25
Checking	\$ 28,456.84	\$ 28,451.66
Savings	\$ 54,722.67	\$ 79,874.58
Investment Accounts	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
Total:	\$ 183,179.51	\$ 183,326.24

The annual financial statement will be attached when it becomes available.

Report created and submitted on October 16, 2025 by Tony Hanson, DGS President 2024 – 2025.

Dallas Genealogical Society
Profit & Loss
 October 2024 through September 2025

	Oct '24 - Sep 25
Income	
4100 · CONTRIBUTIONS, GIFTS & GRANTS	
4110 · Contributions - Individuals	1,639.41
4115 · Contributions - Designated Use	5,750.00
4130 · Corporate Reward Card Programs	390.57
4140 · Indirect Contributions	3,115.50
Total 4100 · CONTRIBUTIONS, GIFTS & GRANTS	10,895.48
4200 · PROGRAM SERVICE REVENUE	
4210 · Registration Fees	12,895.00
4250 · Hospitality Donations	158.91
Total 4200 · PROGRAM SERVICE REVENUE	13,053.91
4300 · MEMBERSHIP DUES	
4310 · Memberships - Individuals	8,065.00
4320 · Memberships - Households	1,000.00
4330 · Memberships - Life	500.00
Total 4300 · MEMBERSHIP DUES	9,565.00
4400 · INTEREST INCOME	
4411 · Interest/Savings Account	11.00
4412 · Interest/Investment Account	3,447.86
Total 4400 · INTEREST INCOME	3,458.86
Total Income	36,973.25
Gross Profit	36,973.25
Expense	
6100 · GENEALOGICAL EDUCATION	
6110 · Speaker Fees	4,645.00
6120 · Reimbursed Travel & Meals	1,869.79
6130 · Catering	921.85
6140 · Printing	1,286.35
6160 · Online Advertising & Promotion	102.14
6190 · Hospitality Expenses	295.88
Total 6100 · GENEALOGICAL EDUCATION	9,121.01
6200 · DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY SUPPORT	
6210 · Donations	6,742.00
6220 · Gifts in Kind	4,610.00
Total 6200 · DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY SUPPORT	11,352.00
6300 · RECORD INDEXING & PRESERVATION	
6320 · Grant/Portal to N.Texas History	1,852.30
6340 · Grants to other organizations	250.00
Total 6300 · RECORD INDEXING & PRESERVATION	2,102.30
7000 · MANAGEMENT & GENERAL EXPENSES	
7100 · Credit Card Processing Fees	765.95
7200 · Direct Mailing	316.00
7300 · Information Technology	5,822.70
7400 · Insurance - Liability, D & O	1,311.00
7500 · Memberships and Dues	330.00
7600 · Postage, Box Rental, Permits	1,103.92
7650 · Printing and Copying	148.78
7700 · Supplies and Other	469.60

Dallas Genealogical Society
Profit & Loss
October 2024 through September 2025

	<u>Oct '24 - Sep 25</u>
7800 · Telephone & Communications	146.66
7898 · Advertising & Publicity	<u>1,680.00</u>
Total 7000 · MANAGEMENT & GENERAL EXPENSES	<u>12,094.61</u>
Total Expense	<u>34,669.92</u>
Net Income	<u><u>2,303.33</u></u>