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January 2019

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January 5 General Meeting

Lisa Ross

The Dallas Genealogical Society will hold the next general meeting on Saturday, January 5, in the 1st-floor Auditorium at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, located at 1515 Young Street in Dallas. Hospitality begins at 10:30 a.m. The Business Meeting begins at 11:00 a.m.



Our educational presentation features Bernard Meisner, Past President and Social Media Chair of the Mid-Cities Genealogical Society. He will be presenting *State and Territorial Censuses – Underused Genealogical Tools*. While you are probably familiar with the decennial federal census, you may be less familiar with the availability and importance of the state and territorial census records. Mr. Meisner will discuss how to locate these underutilized records as well the value of the information within them. These state and territorial census records are an excellent resource for helping to fill in the gaps for our ancestors between those federal census years.

As a reminder, you do not need to be a member of the Dallas Genealogical Society to attend the meetings.

Upcoming Meeting, February 2

Please join us at the February general meeting for a presentation by national speaker, Ari Wilkins. Ari will discuss *Incorporating Oral History into Your Research*. She will tell us how oral history can enhance our research by not only providing names and dates, but can also reveal motives for migration, explanations of brief marriages, and descriptions of an ancestor's personality. Traditional records do not contain this type of information.

We welcome everyone who is interested! Meeting minutes, video recordings of previous Business Meetings, and videos of our Educational Presentations (when the speaker permits) are all available on our [website](#).

Spring Seminar

Jim Thornhill

♪Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Michael's on the Way ♪ ...sorry, I still have a touch of the Christmas spirit. But mostly I am anticipating our Spring Seminar on April 13th. Michael Lacopo will be returning to the DGS Stage and bringing us skills that we all need, improving our methodology. His seminar, titled "A Method to Our Madness: Sound Methodology for Successful Research" will introduce us all to tried and true ways to ensure our research is not only meaningful but error free. One of his presentations is one that I am particularly looking forward to, "Incorporating Social History into Your Research." Knowing the events that shaped our ancestors lives enables us to know their stories and not just the where and when. Since Michael is also an expert on German research, I am looking forward to learning the stories on that side of my family tree.



Something new to our seminars for this year is the student ticket price. If you know a student that is interested in genealogy or know someone who works or teaches in the history department of a local school, we are reaching out to students by offering a \$50 seminar registration. All they have to do is register as a student, then present their student ID the day of the seminar to take advantage of this special rate!

2019 Nominations Committee

Todd DeDecker

The future of our society depends on having enthusiastic, motivated, and talented individuals on our board of directors and that begins with our nominations committee. We are forming the nominations committee this month. This committee is made up of two board members and three members-at-large. The committee is responsible for building a slate of candidates consisting of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary for the 2018-19 society year.



We are seeking volunteers to ensure we have a robust group of candidates to lead the society. We will elect the members-at-large in the February meeting. The committee will present the slate of candidates at the March meeting with the election happening at the April meeting.

Please note that being on the committee does not mean you have to serve on the board, though you are welcome to submit your name.

This is a vital role, and I appreciate your consideration for service on this committee.

2018 Awards Banquet

Tony Hanson

59 DGS members and guests attended the 2018 DGS Awards Banquet on Saturday, December 8th. Congratulations to this year's award recipients:



- Ken Johnston - Rene Jackson Smith Award
- Gloria Goodwin - Award of Merit
- Lisa Ross - Volunteer of the Year
- DGS African American Genealogy Interest Group - Heritage Preservation Award
- Kelvin Meyers - Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award
- Tony Hanson – President's Special Award

In addition, DGS announced the following donations to the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library:

- A 5-year, \$1,500/year, scholarship for Genealogy Section staff members in memory of Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck
- Donation of \$16,000 to construct a digitization room on the 8th floor of the library
- Purchase of a \$35,500 book scanner to be placed in the digitization room

Pictures, a transcription of each presentation, and a link to a video recording of the presentations are available on the DGS website.

Changing Research Priorities

Tony Hanson

I am currently researching Atlantic migration to America. Some of the trends I have discovered have been illuminating to me, and (I think) have large implications for genealogists and genealogical societies.

Much of the current focus in the genealogical world is on European migration. When you look at the ancestors of "typical" genealogists this makes a lot of sense. Just under 44 million immigrants made their way to America between 1607 and 1964, and most of them began their journey somewhere in Europe.



However, it is easy to overlook (unless you are one of their descendants) the fact that an estimated 800,000 of these early immigrants were transported to this county as slaves.

In addition, the demographic makeup of immigrants has changed significantly since World War II. Immigration from China (banned until 1943), and Japan (not allowed until 1952) has increased dramatically. Since 1965, 30 million people have legally immigrated to the United States (and another 8 – 20 million have arrived illegally), primarily from Asia and Latin America.

What does this mean for individual researchers? As our communities (and our families) begin to reflect these changing demographics we need to learn how to perform genealogical research in other cultures and different areas of the world.

Many of today's genealogists were attracted to societies because they offered information, resources, and training in areas that matched their areas of interest. Societies today are struggling for relevance (and members). Part of the reason for this decline in participation may be due to a lack of responsiveness to the needs of contemporary researchers who are investigating a more diverse group of ancestors. Placing an emphasis on topics related to Latin American, Asian and Slave genealogy may be one way to increase interest in societies and society events.

Treasures Lost - Treasures Found

Gloria Goodwin

Do you ever wonder what will happen to your treasured family research after you die (and we all do)? Do you have family who is disinterested or estranged? We become so involved in our research that often we don't focus on the future and then what happens to the pages of work that we have created, toiled over and made our own?



So what could happen? Some things might be:

- It gets thrown away;
- Family members don't know where you stored the information;
- You have failed to document your information in a genealogy program such as Family Tree or Ancestry;
- You have shared your research with other family members in a file format which they may or may not be able to access.

As the DGS Membership Chairman, I pick up the DGS Mail. I recently received a packet of information with a note attached: "I thought this might be useful to someone. The return address did not include a name. The document titled "The Kirkpatrick Family" was multiple pages of genealogical information.

The Dallas Public Library and DGS are fortunate to have FamilySearch missionaries, Blair and Leni Moncur on-site digitizing qualifying books in the genealogy section. I showed them the Kirkpatrick family documents, and they graciously offered to digitize the information if it is not already a part of the FamilySearch digital records. I agreed as there was no copyright on the documents. Additionally, the library staff will place the original document in the genealogy section's [vertical files of family research](#).

Thanks to the person who recognized the importance of the document! I routinely

browse antique stores looking for such treasures to rescue and save. We all need to encourage the genealogists in our families to ensure their labors are saved and available for others.

Conversation with Kenyatta D. Berry Event

Barbara Ware

Kenyatta D. Berry and Lisa Louisa Cooke engaged in conversation December 20, 2018, at the Dallas Public Library before interested family history researchers. Sponsored by the Dallas Public Library and the Dallas Genealogical Society, the event attracted over a hundred attendees. Kenyatta is on a 20-city book tour featuring her new book, *The Family Tree Toolkit: A Comprehensive Guide to Uncovering Your Ancestry and Researching Genealogy*. After the program, she signed copies of her book. FamilyTreeDNA is the official DNA sponsor of the tour.



Earlier in the day, Kenyatta appeared on Good Morning Texas and KERA's THINK. Lisa Louise Cooke plans to broadcast the program via her Genealogy Gems podcast or YouTube videos after the holidays.

View Kenyatta's appearance on Good Morning Texas on the WFAA [website](#).

Listen to the THINK podcast featuring Kenyatta on the KERA [website](#).

New Year, New Opportunities!

Patti Huff Smith

Did you know that at each of our general educational meetings genealogy research mentors are provided for you? Whether you are searching for your own genealogy questions, experiencing road blocks or need DNA answers, we can assist you! If you are experienced in research we could use a few extra people willing to help others!

We meet in the hospitality room beginning at 10:00 a.m. ready and willing to tackle your questions and challenging issues. Come check it out! Sign up below!

[More Info](#)

DGS Newsletters Needed

Tony Hanson

We will be sending our collection of Newsletters to the University of North Texas to be digitized soon. However, we are still missing a few original paper copies.

If you have one of the issues listed below, please contact Tony Hanson at pastpresident@dallasgenealogy.org so we can make



arrangements to borrow it and use it to create high-quality images that will be archived on The Portal to Texas History.

- 1989 - November (Issue 117)
- 1992 - November (Volume 16, Number 9, Issue 145)
- 2011 - January 2011 (Volume 37, Number 1, Issue 297)
- 2011 - April (Volume 37, Number 2, Issue 298)

Mesquite Genealogical and Historical Society Meeting

Solving the Mysteries of Women in Your Family Tree

Having trouble tracking the women in your family tree? Cheryl Smith, genealogy librarian of the Plano Public Library, will lead a discussion on solving the mysteries encountered when tracking the female side of a family tree. She will discuss where to find information on your elusive female ancestors, and she will mention places to go and suggest places to search for clues to this challenging part of your family tree.

Join the Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society on Thursday, January 10th, at the Mesquite Main Library at 6:30 p.m. Come early for visiting and refreshments. You do not have to be a member to attend.

This edition edited by **Suzan Younger**



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Established 1955

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