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**February 2019**

**Event Schedules:** [General Meetings](#) | [Special Interest Groups](#) | [Seminars](#)

## February 2 General Meeting

**Lisa Ross**

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.



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

## Special Presentation February 16

### Information Wanted: The Big Family Search, Reuniting an American Family Separated by Forced Migration in the Antebellum South

The Dallas Genealogical Society's African American Genealogical Interest Group and the Dallas Public Library are sponsoring a special presentation by Pamela Bailey at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 16 in the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library Auditorium. Please join us at this free event when author Pamela Bailey shares her journey as she discovers and reunites her large multi-racial family, all descended from enslaved African Americans from the Pee Dee region of South Carolina.



Pamela Bailey is a nationally published author, a singer-songwriter, and a self-described "Carolina Daughter."

[More Info](#)

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## Registration Live!

**Jim Thornhill**

Registration is now active for our Spring Seminar with Michael Lacopo on April 13! Remember, if you register before March 31, you get a \$10 discount from the regular registration of \$60 for students, \$70 for members, and \$80 for non-members. Because of updates to our registration process, registration is a little different than in the past. Instead of the ticket price you initially see being the one you will pay, the price displayed will be the regular price of \$60 for students, \$70 for members and \$80 for non-members and for those registering before the early bird cut off (March 31 for this seminar) a discount will be applied on the payment screen. Don't worry; your discount is still there, it just shows up in a different place!



The theme for our Spring Seminar is Methodology. Michael will be showing us several practices we can adopt that will make us better researchers and Family Historians.

- First will be Deconstructing Your Family Tree-How to determine when errors have crept into your family tree, how to eliminate those errors and build anew.
- She Came from Nowhere-We all have those ancestors who were "beamed in from outer space!" Michael will show us where to look to help us find where they came from!
- Methods for Identifying German Origins – Looking for "German" ancestors can be a challenge, because of locally kept records and the term "Germany" being a large part of Europe. Michael will help us demystify this country of origin!
- Incorporating Social History into Your Research – I can't wait for this one! This is the key for converting an ancestor from a set of vital statistics into a real person who lived a life worth remembering!

April 13th will be here before you know it! Register today!

[Register](#)

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## The Proof May Be In The Death Certificate

**Gloria Goodwin**

Families and some researchers do not always pay attention to death certificates or even talk about them. While a certificate may be completed shortly after death, access to the record may be at a later time. It is generally used to ensure burial benefits,



insurance claims or other legal issues surrounding death. However, attention to the details of a death certificate may provide proof that the person you are researching belongs in your family tree.

Researching a common name, such as Brown, Smith, Cox, Jones, Baker, or other common names can make researching death certificates a challenging task. As a result, the death certificate may not be one of your first choices in research although it may be the most valuable in providing evidence or proof of an ancestor.

Before searching for a death certificate, it is advisable to be aware of the dates that registrations of births and deaths in a particular state became a requirement. Each state has identified dates that registration of birth and death certificates became a requirement. For example, Texas required birth and death registrations at the state level in 1909. Tennessee began registrations in 1908, Louisiana in 1911, and Mississippi in 1912. Searching for a death certificate in Texas before 1909 is not impossible, but less likely of being found. Although a requirement, certificates were not always issued, especially in rural areas. There were other barriers when registering certificates including inconvenient locations to a local government office, inconsistent reporting by the physician or "old country doc" doing the paperwork and record destruction before being sent to the state.

Every item on a death certificate may provide a clue that you have found the correct ancestor. The death certificate provides some information if known. Sometimes, the information is not available, either because no one present knew the information or the informant did not know the deceased person or have the correct information.

Generally, the information that may be on a death certificate includes full name, date, time, and place of death, the cause of death, length of illness, names of parents, place of birth, funeral home, cemetery, and name and address of informant and physician signing the certificate.

An example of a long-sought-after ancestor who has eluded many researchers and me is Tom C. Smith, my great grandfather. Numerous researchers listed his date of death between 1908 and 1942. Researchers identified Greenwood Cemetery in Fort Worth, Texas as his probable burial site. There are numerous T.C. Smiths, Tom Smiths, Thomas Smiths, Tom Clark Smiths buried in Fort Worth, Texas. My challenge was to determine which Smith was my ancestor.

I first began by listing all the information that I knew about my T. C. Smith ancestor. He lived in Fort Worth, Texas. He was born between 1849 and 1852 in Georgia (depending on other researchers). He was married, even though some Fort Worth city directories listed him without a spouse. I had previously ruled out other T. C. Smiths or Tom Smiths who were not my ancestor based on race, age, family members or other conflicting information. He was a Mason (evidenced by the fact that his wife lived in the Eastern Star Home in Arlington.) I identified his children living in Fort Worth. He was likely buried in Greenwood Cemetery because other family members were buried there, including his wife.

All researchers do "oops" searches at some time or another. I accidentally entered "Mr. T.C. Smith" in the search box and surprisingly a death certificate appeared that I had not seen before! I compared all the information I had with that on the death certificate. The address matched the city directory; the date and place of birth matched my

records. The burial was Greenwood Cemetery, and the informant was his son whose address matched the address in the city directory. I now had a date of death in 1928 which did not match the dates used by other researchers, but one with a high degree of probability.

Since that time, I have found another death certificate with conflicting information listing an ancestor as "Mrs. C. J. Lane." She was married to C. F. Lane. The death certificate did not provide her given name. Consider that the informant may not be a family member and the information may not be correct.

The cause of death is an important indicator of family-related disorders, and you should give this information some attention. For example, in one family all males died by age 45 of "heart disease." Family medical histories can be valuable to medical personnel when considering family genetics and illnesses.

Finally, look at neighbors because they may be relatives. My father often spoke of the Yancy family who took in his younger siblings after the death of his mother. I never knew anything about them until I found the death certificate of Mrs. Yancy who I discovered was the sister of my great grandmother. Mystery solved and another family member identified!

There are other sources associated with a death event you should consider checking for information. A person who dies while traveling may have a coroner's report. A newspaper article may report the death of a person as a result of a criminal act. Newspaper articles may list out of town visitors attending a funeral. Obituaries may provide information about the location of relatives. Look through family papers for other clues.

In closing, my great grandfather died in 1900. The telegram sent to relatives in Tennessee stated "T.W. Cummings dropped dead 12 pm." Telegrams cost per word so, to the point.

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## **What TxSGS Is Doing About Texas House Bill 703, Which Proposes Closing Texas Birth Records for 125 Years**

*[The Texas State Genealogical Society sent the following email to TSGS members. The message contains important information about the Texas House Bill 703 and we are sharing that information with our DGS community.]*

About H.B. 703 You may have heard that a bill, H.B. 703, has been filed to restrict access to Texas birth records for 125 years, a substantial increase over the current 75 years. **When the time is right, Texas genealogists need to be prepared to respond.**

Following is some background information from Teri Flack, the chair of the TxSGS RPAC (Records Preservation and Access Committee):

***In my experience with the 2 previous times such legislation has been introduced recently, timing and information is critical before we make a statewide effort to mobilize the genealogical community to oppose it.***

*Four sessions ago we were successful in getting the genealogical community to communicate with the committee members and sponsor but we waited until right after the committee hearing. Then the issue was fresh in everyone's minds and it made the*

*communications from 100s of genealogists more persuasive. Last time, our talks with the author of the bill were so successful that the author decided to pull it down, so no mass communication was necessary.*

*That said, my intention in the near term is to do background research on why this bill at this time. We also need the time to identify legislative allies who can help us (with a new speaker, there will be a new leadership team, and key players have yet to be identified). I plan to approach Rep. Harris [who filed H.B. 703] about the bill after I've gotten more information.*

## **What Can We Do Now**

We have time and experience on our side. This is the third time we've faced legislation such as this. The first two times ended successfully, and we hope that the key players in this effort are as responsive to reasoned, rational arguments as those in the past. We are not yet at the point where we need to mobilize a response to the bill voicing our concerns. We need to wait until Teri has laid the groundwork for our legislative outreach to be effective. Teri is in the process of gathering information and identifying allies in our resistance to this legislation. We'll keep you informed of her progress.

Please feel free to forward this email to fellow genealogists you think would like to know more about this bill and our response. Encourage them to subscribe to our email list at <http://www.txsgs.org/> to receive updates on our progress. Societies, please forward this email to your membership. You are welcome to use all or part of it in your newsletters.

I also encourage you to add your voice to ours by joining TxSGS and supporting our efforts in records preservation and more across our great state. As we interact with legislators on this and other issues, it helps greatly to be able to say we have a thousand members and represent thousands more through our partner societies. Each member counts!

Best Regards,  
Susan Ball, President  
Texas State Genealogical Society [president@txsgs.org](mailto:president@txsgs.org) (please put RPAC or HB703 in the subject line)

## **Additional Information about the Process of Opposing Legislation**

According to Teri Flack, *"The legislature can't consider any bills, not deemed an emergency by the Governor, until after the 60th day, which this year is March 8. The soonest there would be any public hearing on the bill would be the middle of March. Since committees have not yet been appointed, the bill has not been referred to a committee. Knowing who the committee chair and members are is important in determining our approach."*

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**Help Wanted: Newsletter Editor**

**Patti Smith**



Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

An essential aspect of any genealogical society is excellent communication. The Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS) is looking for a volunteer willing to serve as Editor of the DGS Newsletter (eNews).



Do you enjoy proofreading, editing and coordinating an excellent newsletter that provides useful articles for its members? Then this position may be just the one for you!

We are searching for a willing candidate responsible for creating and publishing the DGS Newsletter 10 times each year. Articles will be submitted to you to proof, edit, format and publish. You would coordinate and schedule the e-News 10 times per year.

[Read More](#)

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## **Volunteer Opportunities for the Spring Seminar**

***Patti Smith***

Coordinating a successful Spring Seminar is made possible by our many wonderful volunteers. The benefits are limitless for just a little bit of extra effort on your part. Are you willing to arrive a few minutes early to greet our guests, or serve at the registration table? Do you have a gift of hospitality? How about an interest in food service or clean up? We need you!



You will not miss out on our fantastic program because you volunteer. Instead, one lucky volunteer will win free admission to an upcoming seminar! Also, as the speaker's schedule allows, all volunteers are invited to dinner (at your own expense) to enjoy time with our guest and get to know our DGS Board Members and other like-minded friends.

The talent you bring to our society is valuable, and we'd love for you to share it. We appreciate our volunteers and thank you for serving!

[Sign Me Up!](#)

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## **RootsTech 2019 Free Live Streaming Sessions**

**Suzan Younger**



It's RootTech time again. While not everyone will travel to Salt Lake City February 27-March 3 to attend RootsTech 2019 in person, you can join in many of the sights and learnings on the RootsTech 2019 home page from the comfort of your own home. Starting Wednesday, February 27, at 9:30 a.m. MST, RootsTech

will live-stream sessions presented by popular speakers. There will be four days of live-streaming sessions including the general sessions featuring keynote speakers Patricia Heaton, Saroo Brierley, and Jake Shimabukuro.

You can find the live-streaming schedule at <https://www.rootstech.org/salt-lake/live-stream-schedule>. For those unable to watch the live-stream, RootsTech will post recordings of the sessions for viewing or reviewing at a later date. Watch for the announcement of that website on the RootsTech home page.

You are invited to attend the March 7, 2019 [DGS Technology SIG](#) meeting. There are six members of the SIG who will attend RootsTech in person and at the March 7 meeting, we will report on new, improved and updated information from some of our favorite genealogy providers and websites. There will be nearly 200 vendors in the Expo Hall at RootsTech and we will visit all of them (we hope) and bring back and report on the latest information from the world of genealogy. Join us in person or remotely by Go-To-Meeting on your computer. Suzan sends a reminder email with Go-To-Meeting sign-in instructions. If you are not on the current mail list, please send your email contact information to [technologysig@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:technologysig@dallasgenealogy.org) before March 3.

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## Genealogy on Facebook.com

**Suzan Younger**

Whether you use Facebook as one of your social media communication avenues or not, there are many reasons for accessing Facebook. Facebook groups are used by organizations to share their messages, photos, and news. One such public group is the Pioneers of Dallas County. This group has posted dozens of historical photographs of Dallas County people, places and events. Anyone with an interest in Dallas city and county history will enjoy browsing the group's picture archive.



If you have a Facebook account you can access this Facebook group at [www.facebook.com/groups/1448880918738775/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1448880918738775/). To access the page without an account or without logging into Facebook, do a Google search for Pioneers of Dallas County Public Group and when you click on the Google search result it will take you directly to the Facebook page where you can access the pictures.

And while you are in Facebook, take time to visit the Dallas Genealogical Society's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DGSStx/> and check out the DGS sponsored North Texas Family History Research group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1979078079046868/>.

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## 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](mailto: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)

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## **Lloyd deWill Bockstruck Papers Update**

### ***Suzan Younger***

Maybe you heard the cheers from the Bockstruck Papers workgroup when they completed labeling the archival folders and moving the papers into the folders. This happened in mid-December. When the library receives the archival boxes on order, the workgroup will transfer the folders to the archival boxes, record the final box and file numbers on the folders and update the finding aid. The library's 8th-floor genealogy section will house the boxes containing Lloyd's personal genealogical research. The 7th-floor Archives will house the biographical information of Lloyd as the librarian, educator, and author. Patrons and researchers will use typical archival access procedures to use the collections. The finding aid will be available online.



But wait! There's more! At the December 2018 DGS Awards Banquet, Tony Hanson announced that the Dallas Genealogical Society had donated a \$35,000 professional book scanner to the genealogy section of the Dallas Public Library. The scanner is installed and housed in the digitization room on the 8th floor. The workgroup is using that scanner to digitize portions of the Lloyd D. Bockstruck Papers. Work began on this scanning project in mid-January.

We will provide updates as we complete the transfer of folders into boxes and move the boxes to a permanent location. The first items to be scanned will be Lloyd's bibliographies. Plans include posting copies of these documents as PDF files on the DGS website. We will update you on this project as it progresses. The Bockstruck Papers workgroup include Tony Hanson, Jean Larson, Sammie Lee, Patrick McKinney, Kelvin Meyers, Kathleen Murray, Terri O'Neill, Barbara Ware, and Suzan Younger.

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This edition edited by Suzan Younger

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## Dallas Genealogical Society

Established 1955

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