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November 2019

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

November 2 General Meeting

The Dallas Genealogical Society will hold the next general meeting on Saturday, November 2, in the 1st-floor auditorium at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library. The library is located at 1515 Young Street in downtown Dallas. Hospitality begins at 10:30 am. The business meeting starts at 11:00 am immediately followed by the presentation.



Kelvin Meyers will present “Through These Doors: The Story of Virginia K. Johnson.” Virginia Knight was born in Virginia and moved to Missouri with her family at a young age. As a teenager, she raised money for the Confederate Army and was jailed for her efforts. She married William H. Johnson, who later became City Attorney for Dallas. Virginia soon became what a contemporary described as a “one-woman welfare organization.” At the turn of the century, her efforts were focused on helping prostitutes find a more respectable occupation other than those afforded by Dallas’ more than 300 saloons and “houses of ill repute.” Describing herself as a “Professional Beggar”, she continued to raise money and fund her home for unwed mother until her death in 1934.

Read about Kelvin Meyers [here](#).

Dallas Genealogical Society General Meeting Minutes & Video Recordings

Access the DGS [October 3 General Meeting Minutes](#) and video of the meeting and presentation by Tui Snider titled “Understanding Cemetery Symbols”.



Watch Video

And the Survey Says....

by Jim Thornhill

No, it's not time to play Family Feud! But the survey results from our Fall Seminar are just as exciting. As usual, you provided us with some valuable information. One encouraging message is that we are continuing to provide you the content that enables you to learn from and enjoy our seminars. While there is always room for improvement, like improving the lighting and trying to get the heat turned on, you have told us we are basically on the right track. [Continue reading.](#)



Meet the DGS Director of Education

by Suzan Younger

Please join me in welcoming Jean Larson as the new Director of Education. Jean is no stranger to the DGS leadership. She served as the Vice President for 2013-14 and 2014-15 and as Director of Education 2012 and 2013. DGS awarded her the Award of Merit - 2017. In addition, she has served on numerous committees and at seminars/workshops, too many to count. Thank you, Jean, for your service to the DGS community.



Newsletter and Website Recognized

by Tony Hanson

The Texas State Genealogical Society offers a variety of awards for writing and websites at their annual conference. The Dallas Genealogical was recognized in



two categories at this year's conference held in Houston.

Our Newsletter won Third place (and \$30) in the *Official Periodical of Partner Societies* – *Newsletters* category

Our website won First Place (and \$100) in the *Website of Partner Societies* category

You can read about all of the award categories on the TxSGS website [Awards & Grants](#) page.

German Genealogy Group - First Meeting

by Ann Broihier

We are so excited about the first meeting of the Dallas Genealogical Societies German Genealogy Group Nov. 2nd at 1:30 PM! Come join us live in the Hamon Training room on the 5th floor of the library or via Zoom.



If you are going to watch the live broadcast, sign in early (starting at 12:45 PM) especially if you have not used Zoom before. The meeting will be recorded and available for later viewing. You can find details regarding the live broadcast [on our website](#).

The Importance of Continuing Education for Professional Genealogists

By Teresa Devine (Teresa.b.devine@gmail.com)

Genealogy is experiencing an evolution. Many of us began our family history journeys before online research and DNA testing existed. In a few short years, both have transformed genealogy from an activity done in archives, courthouses, libraries, and cemeteries to one that can be done in front of your computer at 2 a.m. in your pajamas. With all this change, how do we keep our skills up to date and stay current with the best practices in genealogy? Through continuing education and professional development. [Continue reading](#).



Your Input Needed!

by Kathleen Murray

On December 7, 2019, DGS will host our Annual Awards luncheon! Please nominate people you think stand out for their contributions to the Society! The process is simple:



1. Acquaint yourself with the award categories.

[More Info](#)

2. Submit your nomination(s).

[Nominate Someone](#)

Award Categories

- **Volunteer of the Year (DGS)** - Presented annually to a member who has generously volunteered time, expertise, talents, and abilities to the Society during the previous year to the extent to make that member stand out and draw attention.
- **Award of Merit** - Presented annually to a DGS member who has consistently contributed time, talent, expertise, and abilities to the Society for years. This member's dedication and hard work in the name of the society usually go above the norm. Their contributions stand out.
- **Heritage Preservation** - Presented annually to an individual, group, or organization in recognition of contributions to preserve, conserve, house, or collect family history. Past recipients in this category cover many varying types of genealogical and historic preservation endeavors.
- **Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award** – DGS presents this award to an individual for outstanding contributions to the genealogical community on a national level. The first person to receive this award in 1994 was Lloyd, and the Society decided then that the award would bear his name.
- **President's Special Award** - The President's Special Award honors individuals or groups whose contributions to the Society fall outside the criteria for our other awards.

Submit Nomination

- Online

[Nominate Someone](#)

- Email: awards@dallasgenealogy.com

Include the nominee name, the award you are nominating them for, and a brief explanation of why you think they deserve the award.

Save the Date!

DGS Awards Luncheon
December 7, 2019
O'Hara Hall, 7th floor
J. Eric Jonsson Library
1515 Young St., Dallas, TX

Please take a few minutes to nominate someone you think should be recognized!

Veteran's Day, November 11, 2019

The history of Veteran's Day began on 4 June 1926 when the United States Congress issued a concurrent resolution marking the end of World War I and inviting the American people to observe the day. Over the years it evolved into a remembrance of all veterans when President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued Proclamation 3071 calling on all citizens to observe November 11 as [Veteran's Day](#).

You can read the history of Veteran's Day on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs [website](#).

20th-Century Veteran's Service Records

by Norman Eisenberg

The nation is replete with World War II memorials, in small towns and big cities, including the newest one in our nation's capital. But there is just one place that contains personal military information about nearly every American who served in that conflict, as well as those who served at other times during the 20th century: the National Archives and Records Administration's [National Personnel Records Center \(NPRC\) in St. Louis, Missouri](#).



Like any employer, the U.S. Government maintains the work records of its former employees. For more than four decades, they have been stored in two buildings in St. Louis, one for former members of the military, and one for former members of the civil service. Each facility holds about 2 million cubic feet of records, nearly all of them personnel-related. About 25 percent of the holdings in each building are medical records of active duty military personnel, their dependents, and retirees, from military hospitals and clinics since 1943.

This is an excerpt from an article by Norman Eisenberg printed in NARA's publication The Prologue Magazine, Spring 2005, Vol. 37, No. 1. You can access the full article on the NARA website [here](#).

Additional Links:

[NARA. Pieces of History. Burnt in memory: Looking Back at the 1973 St. Louis Fire](#)

[NARA. Military Personnel Records](#)

[NARA. Request Military Service Records](#)

Save the Date

Nov. 2. Dallas Genealogical Society General Meeting
Kelvin Meyers: *Through These Doors, The Story of Virginia K. Johnson*



Nov. 2. German Genealogy Interest Group first meeting

Nov. 7. Grand Prairie Genealogical Society Meeting
Patti Gillespie: *16 Death Records That Will Bring Your Research to Life*

Nov. 14. Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society
David Appleton: *Heraldry for Genealogists*

Nov. 16. African-American Genealogical Interest Group

Nov. 20. Jewish Special Interest Group

Nov. 21. DNA Special Interest Group

Nov. 23. Best Practices Special Interest Group

This edition edited by Cathy Dempsey

About the Dallas Genealogical Society

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