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December 2019

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

Let's Celebrate!

by Jim Thornhill

Celebrating accomplishments is important for any organization. The way the Dallas Genealogical Society does this is our annual awards banquet. This December 7th, we will gather as an organization to celebrate two things, the accomplishments we have made as a society, and the outstanding accomplishments that have been made by some of our fellow Family Historians.



As a society, this year, we have made significant contributions to the Genealogy section of the downtown Dallas Public Library by making improvements to the facility, purchasing equipment, and supplying books for the library. We have won awards for our website and e-news, and continued our efforts to preserve the history of both individuals and communities in our area.

To award others, six awards will be given out to recognize individuals and organizations who have contributed to the genealogy community, either through service to DGS or to other organizations locally and nationwide.

Join us to get the scoop on what your society and its members have been up to for 2019. To top it off, if you are a DGS member, the society will buy you lunch! You just need to register. We invite non-members to attend the lunch and may purchase tickets [here](#). Join us as we celebrate 2019 together and look forward to 2020!

[Register](#)

Private Voices, Civil War Letters Online

by Barbara Ware

I was listening to a rebroadcast of an NPR “Way With Words” podcast (1) recently. The hosts mentioned the website [Private Voices](#) by linguists Michael Ellis (Missouri State University) and the late Michael Montgomery (University of South Carolina) and historian Stephen Berry (University of Georgia). The interest of the hosts, Martha Barnette and Grant Barrett, was the language of the soldiers.



This project began with 4,000 letters from soldiers from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. It now has 2,000 additional letters from soldiers from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Maine. Linguists are especially interested in the way that Civil War soldiers and their families often “wrote by ear.” So, the letters may be difficult to read, but more easily understood when read out loud. The letters are transcribed as written, spelling and all. Continue reading [here](#).

¹ Martha Barnette, “Hidden Treasures,” *A Way with Words*, 28 October 2019 (rebroadcast) <https://www.waywordradio.org/civil-war-letters/> and <https://www.waywordradio.org/pill-meant-bullet/>: accessed 30 October 2019.

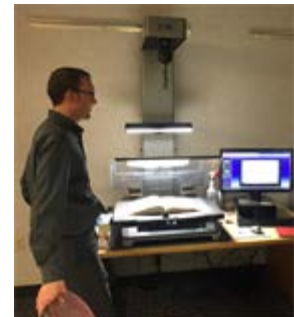
[Soldiers at rest after drill, Petersburg, Va.](#), 1864. The soldiers are seated reading letters and papers and playing cards. 111-B-220. National Archives Identifier: [524639](#)

Quarterly Digitization Project Completed

by Tony Hanson

The Dallas Genealogical Society announces the completion of the DGS Quarterly digitization project and a donation to the Cathy Nelson Hartmann Portal to Texas History Endowment.

[Read more](#).



Native American Heritage Month Research Ideas

by Sharon Bowles

In November 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution naming November as Native American Heritage Month. There is a wealth of resources for genealogists researching Native American families. Sharon gives you two excellent websites with both online and on-location records. Read her article [here](#).



Google is Your Friend

by Jim Thornhill

According to Wikipedia, Google.com is the most visited website in the world. More than a few of those website visits are by genealogists researching the vast amounts of information looking for certain people, images, locations, or events. Jim provides three tips to enable you to do more effective searches and craft your search to get more specific results.



“Using Dates” gives you options to narrow your search to a specific time or period. “Get Specific” shows how, by adding a location to a name search, your results are more relevant. And “Taming Goliath” explains how you can tackle large websites like the Library of Congress. Read Jim’s article [here](#).

The Portal to Texas History Endowment Announcement

by Suzan Younger

The Dallas Genealogical Society supports the Portal to Texas History, an online repository hosted and maintained by the University of North Texas Libraries. Both DGS and individual members contributed to UNT’s campaign to fund the [Cathy Nelson Hartman Portal to Texas History Endowment](#). We are pleased to share the announcement that the campaign was a great success.



[The Portal to Texas History](#) has reached a multimillion-dollar fundraising milestone to support continuing growth of its transformative online collection of Texas history and culture.

UNT Libraries had a goal of raising \$1.5 million over the last four years to receive the entirety of a \$500,000 Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Earlier this semester it surpassed that mark, reaching \$2.3 million in funds raised. Read more [here](#).

Proposed Fee Increase at the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services

by Suzan Younger

The U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) published a proposed rule in the Federal Register that substantially increases the fees to purchase copies of genealogical records. The proposed fee changes are a staggering amount – a nearly 500% increase.



Judy Russell explains the proposed changes in her blog -*The Legal Genealogist* – posted on November 21, 2019. The article provides background on types of documents affected by the increase. More importantly, she lists a game plan to comment and oppose the considerable increase. Read the blog article [here](#).

Judy G. Russell, “[Records, not revenue](#),” *The Legal Genealogist* (<https://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog> :

Local Society Year-end Holiday Events

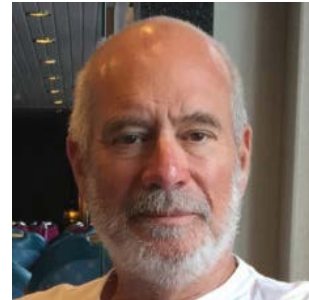
Grand Prairie Genealogy Society's Annual Holiday Celebration will be a Covered Dish Show & Tell held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 5 at the Grand Prairie Memorial Library in the Inspire Room, 901 Conover Drive, Grand Prairie. Bring a dish to share, and a story for "Show and Tell".

Mesquite Historical & Genealogical Society's holiday event and "Show and Tell" will be on Thursday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 12 in the Mesquite Main Library. Bring a holiday treat and family discovery story to share. You do not have to be a member to attend.

January 4, 2020 General Meeting

Remember there will be no General Meeting in December, due to our [Annual Awards Luncheon](#).

Please join us in January, when Tony Hanson, Webmaster of the Dallas Genealogical Society, will be presenting *Technology Enables Collaboration*. Tony's presentation will examine three relatively new capabilities that are enabling collaborative family research: Greatly improved presentation of DNA results from Ancestry DNA and MyHeritage DNA, The Family Search Family Tree, and self-publishing family history using a blog or a website. Attendees will learn the benefits provided by each and will learn how to effectively incorporate them into their own personal research methodology.



Our [January 2020 General Meeting](#) will be held on Saturday, January 4th, 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., followed by our Business Meeting, which will begin at 11:00 a.m. As a reminder, you do not need to be a member of the Dallas Genealogical Society to attend the meetings. 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](#).

Donate to DGS While You Shop - Business Support Programs

Several outstanding companies provide financial support to organizations like ours by providing a portion of each purchase made by registered customers as a donation to DGS. Over the past year, the Dallas Genealogical Society has received more than \$500 through these programs.

If you shop at Tom Thumb, Kroger, or Amazon please take a



few minutes to ensure that we will receive donations for every purchase you make. You can view step by step instructions to sign-up [here](#).

Please consider signing up for one of these [business support programs](#) and link your card to the Dallas Genealogical Society. DGS will receive donations at no extra cost to you.

Save The Date

Dec. 5. Grand Prairie Genealogy Society

Dec. 7. Dallas Genealogical Society Annual Awards Luncheon

Dec. 7. MacGen Reunion Group

Dec. 12. Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society

Dec. 18. Jewish Special Interest Group

Dec. 19. DNA Special Interest Group

Dec. 21. African-American Genealogical Interest Group

Dec. 28. Best Practices Special Interest Group

Jan. 4. Dallas Genealogical Society General Meeting
Tony Hanson: *Technology Enable Collaboration*

Jan. 12 – Jan. 17. Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy
Salt Lake City, Utah



This edition edited by Cathy Dempsey

About the Dallas Genealogical Society

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Dallas Genealogical Society

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