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February 2020

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February 1 General Meeting

The Dallas Genealogical Society will hold the next general meeting on Saturday, February 1, 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.



Our presentation this month, 'Discover New Ancestral Information by Connecting Through Social Media', will be made by our Director of Volunteer Coordination Patti Huff Smith. Social networking tools are a great means for finding additional information about your ancestors and connecting with those researching your family. It allows you to discover living relatives, connect with unknown family members and stay in touch with ones we know. This program will focus on how to create a Facebook page with a genealogical focus with emphasis on how to keep it interesting and engaging.

For more information, please click [here](#). The meeting will be live-streamed over the Internet, using Zoom. Instructions for how to use and access the meetings with Zoom can be accessed [here](#). Look for and click on this sentence, "This meeting will be streamed live over the internet. Here are a few tips on how to watch it."

Downtown Dallas Construction: How to Access DPL Parking Garage

From January 20th to March 16th Wood Street in downtown Dallas will be closed from Browder Street (just west of the library parking garage entrance) to Field St. for storm sewer repair. The only entrance to the library parking garage will be from the intersection of Ervay Street and Wood Street, east of the parking garage entrance. Since Ervay is one way traveling from South to North, you will need to get on Ervay

south of the library, proceed to Wood and turn left on Wood to the library garage entrance. You can look at a map [here](#).

Including Architecture in your Genealogical Research

by Susan Chance-Rainwater

You've just received a scan of an old letter from a fellow researcher. Written by a distant relation, the letter tells the story of the Depression-era tax auction of a farm that had been in the family since the 1860s.



The letter describes a farmhouse with three shed dormers, a tobacco barn, a hog barn, a stone well house, and a two-seat outhouse. To the east of the house, there's a running-rail fence along a dirt road. In her mind's eye, the letter's writer will always be able to see the old home place. The question is, can you?

At some point in your family research, you begin to focus on the details of your ancestors' lives. Those details should include the landscape and buildings in which they lived.

Continue reading [here](#).

Texas Hidden History Map

by Barbara Ware

A fun and informative tool on the Texas General Land Office website is the [Texas Hidden History map viewer](#). The map opens with a clickable index page showing the available cities. Click on a city. The current day map will appear in the background with a "circular historical viewer" on top. You can toggle between current day and historic maps of ten cities, Austin's Colony (1837) and the State of Texas (1849).



Continue reading [here](#).

DGS Needs your Service

by Jim Thornhill

Muhammad Ali once said, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." As family historians, many of us can see the threads of a "culture of service" weaving through our families for generations. In my case, that culture started with my third great grandfather. His service made an impact on his world, which is still felt today; now, if I could only live up to his example!



It has been said before and will be said again, Dallas Genealogical Society could not exist without its volunteers. Click [here](#) to read more.

Looking Forward: 2020 Seminars

by Jim Thornhill

Your Dallas Genealogical Society is proud to present you with an award-winning lineup of speakers for this year's seminars. We listened to what you told us on past surveys and have tailored this year's lineup to meet those requests.



After Judy Russell's presentation on "Property Rights and Wrongs," many of you told us you wanted more information on the uniqueness of African American research. Our first seminar on April 18th will feature acclaimed genealogist Tony Burroughs. Tony is a college professor, has spoken at national genealogy conferences, and is widely known as an expert on African American genealogy.

For more on the DGS upcoming seminars, read [here](#).

MHGS Interest Group Focusing on Research!

Join the **Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society's** interest group to explore your genealogy questions. Join us on **Saturday, February 15th** at the Mesquite Main Library from 9 a.m. to noon. This group will meet to discuss how to get started, how to keep and store records, where to look for online information, as well as any other genealogy question you might have. Meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of every month. Everyone is welcome to come and join in the discussion.

Google is Your Friend, Part 2

by Jim Thornhill

Google Drive

I use Google Drive daily and have still not even scratched the surface of its capabilities. Many authors have written entire books on using Google Drive. I'm just going to tell you what it means to me as a family historian.



Perhaps my favorite thing about Google Drive is the 15GB of free storage. I have worked hard on my family tree. I have put in thousands of hours of research, driven hundreds of miles to repositories, and have had many special moments as I learned new things about my family. For most family historians, your experience has been or will be the same. The thought of losing my family's history, well, it makes me start sobbing uncontrollably and I usually end up in the fetal position!!

But what am I to do? I back my family tree and all my other data up on an external hard drive, but what if my house should catch on fire or a tornado should come to visit? Continue reading [here](#). For Part 1 of Google is Your Friend, click [here](#).

Save the Date

Feb. 1. Dallas Genealogical Society General Meeting
Patti Huff-Smith: *"Discover New Ancestral Information by Connecting through Social Media"*



Feb. 8. MacGen Reunion Group

Feb. 15. MHGS Research Interest Group

Feb. 15. African American Genealogical Interest Group

Feb. 19. Jewish Special Interest Group

Feb. 20. DNA Special Interest Group

Feb. 22. Best Practices Special Interest Group

Mar. 7. Dallas Genealogical Society General Meeting

This edition edited by Cathy Dempsey

About the Dallas Genealogical Society

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