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DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
EXPLORE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY WITH US

## eNews - April 2026

### It's Not Too Late to Sign Up for the Spring Seminar!

Although Michael Lacopo will be here at the J. Erik Jonsson library today, it's not too late to sign up for the seminar!

You can view the event on Zoom today, and you will have access to the recordings through April 12th to watch as many times as you like! Also, a link to the syllabus (in PDF format) will be provided when you register.



MORE INFO

REGISTER NOW

### Our April General Meeting Features Sara Cochran Presenting "Suddenly Scotland"!



Please join us in person or remotely on Zoom for our General Meeting on April 4th.

Sara Cochran will be our speaker, and will be focusing on Scottish research. Sara is also known as "The Skeleton Whisperer". She has over 30 years of research experience, and enjoys breaking down brick walls and discovering stories of black sheep ancestors. You know we all have them! Join us and find out new ways of discovering those hidden skeletons.

LEARN MORE

## Save the Date! Summer Seminar with Craig R. Scott on July 25, 2026!

In recognition of our country's 250th anniversary, we have invited Revolutionary War expert genealogist Craig R. Scott, CG, FUGA to come to Dallas and walk us down the paths we need to follow to find the details of our patriot ancestors' service. Discover the impact the fight for American independence had on our forebear's lives. The lectures include:

- Organizations in the War
- Records created by the War
- Records created after the War: Pensions
- Records created after the War: Bounty Land.



Craig Roberts Scott, MA, CG, FUGA is the President and CEO of Heritage Books, Inc., a genealogical publishing firm with over 10,000 titles in print. A professional genealogical and historical researcher for more than thirty-nine years, he specializes in records of the National Archives, especially those that relate to the military. He has coordinated the Military tracks at IGHR, SLIG, and GRIP in years past. He is currently the Coordinator of the SLIG Consultation Track, helping students solve their brick wall problems.

### President's Message



As we reflect on more than 70 years of the Dallas Genealogical Society, I am continually inspired by the profound role DGS has played in the Dallas community. For seven decades, our Society has helped individuals uncover family stories, preserve local and regional history, and built a welcoming home for genealogists at every stage of their journey.

This legacy is sustained by engaged members who generously share their time, expertise, and commitment. Spring marks an especially meaningful season for DGS, as we prepare for our Annual Awards Banquet in May. This cherished tradition allows us to recognize individuals whose contributions have strengthened both the Society and the broader genealogical community. Planning this event is a collaborative effort, and we are now seeking members to serve on the Annual Awards Committee.

Responsibility for the banquet is shared by two volunteer groups. One identifies and selects recipients for the Dallas Genealogical Society Award of Merit, Heritage Preservation Award, Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award, and manages the awards presentation. A second group coordinates event logistics, including the meeting room at the library, registration, and catering. If you are interested in serving or nominating a deserving individual, please contact [nominating@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:nominating@dallasgenealogy.org) or [president@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:president@dallasgenealogy.org).

We are also seeking volunteers for the Financial Review Committee, an essential part of our Society's governance and transparency. This committee, consisting of at least

three members appointed by the President in November, reviews the Society's fiscal year financial transactions between January 1 and February 28, following Board established procedures. Due to some challenges this year, we are behind schedule and help is most appreciated. Members interested in serving on this committee are encouraged to contact [president@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:president@dallasgenealogy.org).

By stepping forward in service, you help ensure DGS remains strong, accountable, and vibrant for generations to come. Together, we honor our past and build our future.

With appreciation and enthusiasm,  
Beri Kaplan Schwitzer  
DGS President

## Website Access Changes - Please Read!

Due to recent technical issues, the Dallas Genealogical Society has updated the way members access members-only materials on our website.



The following activities are unchanged:

- Accessing public information on the [DGS website](#) - No username or password is required.
- Creating or renewing your membership or registering for events through the DGS Account Manager - Continue using your individual [DGS Account UserID and Password](#)

While most information on our website is publicly available, some materials remain restricted to current DGS members, including:

- Keyword-searchable PDF versions of every Newsletter, Quarterly, and Journal published by DGS
- Recordings of General Meeting presentations (when presenters request restricted access)

What Has Changed? Previously, members accessed these restricted materials using the same credentials used for the DGS Account Manager. This is no longer the case. Members-only website content is now accessed using a shared username and password, with the password updated quarterly.

How to Get the Current Password

You can obtain the current password using either of the methods below.

Option 1: From the DGS Website

1. Go to <https://dallasgenealogy.org>
2. From the Membership menu, select Member-only content → Get DGS Member Username and Password
3. Log in using your DGS Account UserID and Password

Option 2: From the DGS Account Manager

1. Log in to the [Account Manager](#):
2. Use your DGS Account UserID and Password
3. Select "DGS Website Username and Password" from the What would you like to do? menu

Both options will take you to the DGS Website Access Information page, where the current password will be displayed.

1. Record the password.
2. Return to the members-only login page using the provided link.
3. Log in using the username dgsmember and the current password.

Remember, The DGS Website Username (dgsmember) will not change. However, the DGS Website Password will change quarterly. This means you will have to get the new password using either Option 1 or 2 above.

## Sharing an In Person Roots Tech Experience



Stephanie Bennett

Attending RootsTech in person this year was very different from participating online. Being there in person made it clear just how large and connected the genealogy community really is.

While in Salt Lake City, I had the opportunity to tour the Family History Library for the first time. Five floors dedicated entirely to genealogy was incredible to see, and it gave me many ideas for future improvements to our own 8th-floor genealogy collection.

During the conference I met with several groups from FamilySearch, including volunteers, the book-scanning team, the affiliate library program and FamilySearch MENA. I also attended the ARC Symposium, where I learned about new handwriting-recognition technology that can help read difficult historical records and even older languages.

One of the best parts of the trip was finally meeting in person many people I had only known online. The sense of excitement and shared purpose throughout the conference was overwhelming, especially in the expo hall, where conversations with colleagues often lasted so long that I nearly missed the start of classes. I also had the chance to tour the Church History Library, which has impressive archival, conservation, and digitization equipment and shows the level of care required to preserve historical records.

This was my first visit to Utah, and between the mountains, the busy convention center, and staying just across the street in a loft instead of a hotel, the whole experience felt both energizing and inspiring. One slide shown during the conference summed up the entire trip for me:

"Everyone deserves to be remembered."

That message perfectly explains why genealogy matters — and why supporting genealogy services in public libraries is so important. Our work helps make sure that people’s stories are preserved, discovered and shared.

## Recognize Our Contributors

Think about all the society activities that seem to “just happen” each year: nine General Meetings, twelve Board Meetings, three seminars, monthly SIG meetings, ten newsletters, library purchases, website maintenance, and much more.



Of course, these things don’t happen by themselves. They are made possible by dedicated members who generously contribute their time, effort, and expertise. The Dallas Genealogical Society is fortunate to have many volunteers whose work keeps our programs and services thriving. If someone’s contributions stand out in your mind, please take a few minutes to nominate them for one of our annual awards:

- Award of Merit
- Heritage Preservation Award
- Volunteer of the Year
- Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award

Information about the criteria for each award, past recipients, and nomination forms can be found on our [Annual Awards](#) webpage. Your nomination helps ensure that the people who make this society strong receive the recognition they deserve.

Be sure to join us at our [May 2 General Meeting](#), where this year’s recipients will be announced. After the presentations, stay to mingle with fellow members and enjoy light refreshments.

## National Genealogical Society Family History Conference



The National Genealogical Society’s annual conference will be held 27-30 May 2026 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, home to the Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library.

In recognition of the Semiquincentennial Anniversary of the signing of United States Declaration of Independence on 4 July 1776, the theme is America at 250. The conference will shine a light on the stories, communities, and research strategies that help us understand the nation’s past. It also will focus on how genealogists can preserve our family

histories for the future.

LEARN MORE

## A Warm Welcome to our New Members! We're Excited You're Here!



- Stephanie Aves
- Genia Christine
- Frank Dameron
- Stacey Dwyer
- Anita Herrmann
- Melissa Beth Morgan – Surnames Morgan, Speed, Harris, Brown in North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. Digitizing manual records and photos, appropriate software
- Heather Paine
- Crystal Swartz
- Jessica Starley – extensive work in documentation for lineage societies such as DAR, colonial societies, and related hereditary organizations. Very interested in connecting with those researching overlapping colonial and Texas families.

Check out all our members' surname interests on [our website!](#)

### Spring Clean Your Research Files

By Kate Penney Howard [www.katepenneyhoward.com](http://www.katepenneyhoward.com)

April is the traditional season for cleaning. And if your genealogy files look anything like mine have looked in years past, they need it.

Start with your source citations. Open ten files at random and check whether each one has a complete citation attached. Not a URL. Not "found on Ancestry." A proper citation that tells you what record type, what repository, what collection, and what the document says. If you cannot find your source in six months without hunting, the source is not doing its job.

Next, look at your working notes. Many researchers, myself included, write notes to themselves that made perfect sense in the moment and are completely opaque two years later. "Check John's brother" means nothing if you cannot remember which John or which brother. Add context. Write dates. Write the question you were trying to answer, not just the thing you found.

Duplicate files are the enemy. If you have saved the same census image four times in four different folders, you have not organized your research. You have buried it. Pick one folder system and commit to it.

Back up everything. I say this every year because every year someone loses research they cannot replace. An external hard drive is good. Cloud storage is good. Both is better. If your research only lives in one place, it is at risk.

Finally, take an hour to write up what you know about one family line. Just one. A short narrative summary. The act of writing forces you to see the gaps and the unsupported assumptions. Those are the places where your spring research will begin.

Clean files are not just tidy. They are research ready.

## Relatively Speaking - Direct Lineage vs Collateral Relative

Direct ancestors are people to whom you are related through parent-child relationships only. Aunts, uncles, siblings, and all other family members who are not direct ancestors or descendants are called “collateral relatives” or “indirect ancestors.”

While many of the lineage societies, such as the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) require proof of documented, direct lineage to Patriots, other relatives can be very important in finding those direct lineage ancestors.

Families often lived nearby one another. If you find your Aunt Jean’s marriage records, and are able to track her in the census records under her new married name, your mother might be living with her or near her. Make sure to expand your network to include other family members and friends.

### Upcoming Events

#### [DGS General Meeting](#)

April 4th, 11:00am - 12:30pm

#### [Collin County Genealogy Meeting](#)

April 8th, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

#### [Caprock Genealogy Conference](#)

April 11th, 9:00am – 4:00pm

#### [Jewish Special Interest Group](#)

April 13th, 10:30am - 12:00pm

#### [African American Genealogical Interest Group](#)

April 18th, 2:00pm - 3:30pm

#### [Best Practices SIG](#)

April 25th, 10:30am - 12:00pm

All times given are Central time; view our [calendar](#) for more details.

### About the Dallas Genealogical Society

- [Society Leaders](#)
- [Mission Statement](#)
- [History of the Dallas Genealogical Society](#)

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