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DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
EXPLORE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY WITH US

eNews - May 2026

Please Join Us at Our May 2nd Meeting to Learn about DNA Painter!

Dr. Patricia Coleman is a professional genealogist specializing in DNA analysis and Irish research. Much of her recent work focuses on analyzing Irish records, building DNA match family trees, and identifying shared ancestors through evidence-based methods. At our May meeting, she will be presenting "Getting Started with DNA Painter".



Patricia holds a PhD in Chemistry from the University of California, Davis, and her analytical background enhances her genealogical problem-solving. She is the owner of Patricia Coleman Genealogy LLC and writes a blog at patriciacolemangenealogy.com.

She incorporates AI tools into her research to improve data analysis, automate pattern detection, and deepen genealogical evidence evaluation. She is a moderator for the DNA Painter and Genetic Affairs Facebook user groups and frequently presents on genetic genealogy, Irish research, and practical applications of AI in genealogy. We're excited to have Dr. Coleman present to our group and hope you can join us!

MORE INFO

More Activities at the May 2nd Meeting!



In addition to our speaker, our May meeting will have extra activities.

We will present the winners of our four annual award categories, and we will present the candidates for our Board of Directors, as well as offer some additional snacks, and cake! Yes, there will be cake!

Plan to attend the May meeting in person and meet the elected members of the 2026–2027 Board of Directors. From lifelong genealogists to seasoned community leaders,

this team is dedicated to advancing research, education, and engagement for all members.

We will meet at 10:30 in O'Hara Hall on the 7th floor of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library.

See more information about our Leadership Team:

[More Info](#)

Summer Seminar - Celebrating our 250th Birthday!



In recognition of our Country's 250th Birthday, we have a special presentation by Craig R. Scott - "Researching our Revolutionary War Patriots". Do you have an ancestor who fought in the Continental Army or in a local militia? Did your ancestor render aid, or sign an Oath of Allegiance? Learn about records created during and after the Revolutionary War that will allow you to research your Patriot ancestor.

Craig Roberts Scott, MA, CG®, FUGA is the author of The 'Lost Pensions': Settled Accounts of the Act of 6 April 1838 (Revised) and Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury, Inventory 14 (Revised). His most recent work is Understanding Revolutionary War and Invalid Pension Ledgers, 1818 – 1872. He has authored seventeen books and several articles in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, the Magazine of Virginia Genealogy and other genealogical publications.

He is the President and CEO of Heritage Books, Inc., a genealogical publishing firm with over 10,00 titles in print. A professional genealogical and historical researcher for more than thirty-five years, he specializes in military records, problem-solving, Quakers, and publishing. He is a member of the Company of Military Historians and on the editorial board of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly. He is a former Treasurer and Director of the Association of Professional Genealogists. He was a faculty member for several years of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and once at the Genealogical Institute of Pittsburgh. He is currently the Coordinator of the SLIG Guidance and Consultation Track, helping students solved their brick wall problems. He is the host of the @JustGenealogy YouTube channel where he has recorded over 275 videos, and he will be our guest speaker on July 25th!

More information on registering for this event will be available soon!

[LEARN MORE](#)

The Spring Seminar - Oktoberfest, Even Without Beer!



The atmosphere was festive for all who participated in our Spring Seminar on German research with Dr. Michael Lacopo. Almost one hundred people took part in this facts-filled, fun day. A sample of the feedback comments we received are “excellent!” “terrific” “wonderful” “it’s always a great learning day with Mike”.

(From left to right, Kim Edge, Sharon Bowles, Corlie Story, Patricia Hernandez, Betty Case, Michael Lacopo, Melissa Fleming and Sue Gover-Lee)

Indeed, Michael squeezed out every second of the time allotted for each lecture to help us tackle our German research with more confidence. He also debuted a new presentation for us on deciphering German language records for non-German speakers. His open, down-to-earth attitude and humor helped make the day entertaining as well as educational.

The seminar day peaked with more laughter and research tales over dinner with the seminar volunteers at Celebration Restaurant. Our DGS Hospitality queen Betty Case had an especially enjoyable time, as she got to trade family gossip with Mike, who may be her distant relative! Thanks to all who made the successful day happen!

Engaging the Next Generation of Family Historians

Beri Kaplan Schwitzer

One of the most important questions before genealogical societies today is not what records we should collect, but who will carry this work forward. How do we engage younger generations in family history in a world that moves quickly and digitally?

The answer, I believe, begins with storytelling. While names and dates matter, younger researchers are often drawn in by meaning—stories of resilience, migration, identity, and connection. When we frame genealogy as a way to understand who we are and how we came to be, rather than simply as a technical pursuit, curiosity follows.



Technology also plays a key role. Many younger people already document their lives online through photos, videos, and social media. Helping them see these materials as tomorrow’s historical records—and teaching them how to preserve and contextualize them—bridges past and present in a powerful way.

Equally important is mentorship. Inviting grandchildren, students, and first-time researchers to collaborate, ask questions, and experiment creates an environment where learning is shared across generations. Genealogy thrives when it is communal, not solitary.

As we look ahead, let us continue to welcome new voices, new tools, and new perspectives. By meeting the next generation where they are, we ensure that the stories we treasure today will still be told

Picnic with the Pioneers! April 25th 11:00 - 1:00



The Dallas County Pioneer Association of yesteryear had grand picnics to gather and reminisce about the founding days of Dallas. This year's event is no different – except that we fast forward through 130 years of history to add to our conversations. On top of that, there will be lots of food and fun.

Come and have your picture taken under the biggest documented Post Oak in Dallas County. We begin to arrive in the cool of the morning and eat shortly after noon. Bring a chair and some friends – all who read or hear about this are invited to join in!

Glover Cemetery is on the south side of Military Parkway, west of Jim Miller Rd. between Donna and Academy streets. The white wrought iron Glover archway can be seen from Military Parkway. There is plenty of parking in the grass in front of the cemetery.

When

04/25/2026 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location

W. W. Glover Cemetery
6670 Military Parkway
Dallas, Texas

[LEARN MORE](#)

DPL - Bockstruck Award Winner - "Donny" Perry!

Donald "Donny" Perry is the latest recipient of the DGS Bockstruck Memorial Scholarship.

Discover more about Donny's years of service, his passion for family history, and how this award will support his continued research journey by enabling him to attend the renowned Ohio Genealogical Society Conference.

Congratulations to Donny!



[READ MORE](#)

Liberty and Lace Ball - June 27th, 6:00 - 9:00

Step back into the vibrant world of Revolutionary-era America—where powdered wigs meet pounding drums, minuets mingle with hip-hop remixes, and history is for everyone. The Liberty and Lace Ball honors the first steps toward independence—personal, cultural, and national—while recognizing that freedom in 1776 was not yet a reality for all.

FRIENDS OF THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

In the grand tradition of Revolutionary-era gatherings, guests are invited to celebrate progress, express their unique heritage, and dance in the enduring pursuit of liberty for everyone.

This event is in-person only! Registration will close on June 27th at 4:00. This Genealogy & History program is part of Dallas Public Library's 250 Years of Us: Reading America's Past, Writing Our Future, brought to you by the generosity of Friends of the Dallas Public Library.

LEARN MORE

Attendance Prize Winner-Book Furnished by Genealogical

A big thank you to Genealogical.com for providing one of the attendance prizes given out at our Spring Seminar. Our DGS member, Pamela Meinert, went home with a copy of "Ultimate Guide to Mastering Family Search". Congratulations to Pamela and to our other attendance prize winners!.

Welcome New Members!

We're excited to welcome a half-dozen new members in April! So glad you joined DGS!

- Barbara Driscoll
- Mieke Hawner – research in Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France and Chile and surnames including Hawner, Ney, Baston, Speth, Engel, Molitor, Dreckmann, Schacht, and Hinsch. Especially looking for members with Dutch ancestry.
- Karla Jones
- Terri Narotzky
- Rosemary Schoolfield
- Barbara Schneider – advanced research in areas of Germany whose settlers came to the Texas Hill Country, also English and Irish ancestors who immigrated to eastern and central USA. Surnames Schneider, Schkade, Kubitz, Fritsche, Friske, Nutschan, Kohler, Jahn, Westermann, Eversole, Mathes, Johnson, Hensley, Holland, Bolin, Grigg, Jenkins, Newcomb, Huff, Kessler, Cothran, Radford. Also DNA research.



Members can add their [surname research](#) interests on our website. See if you have a matching interest!

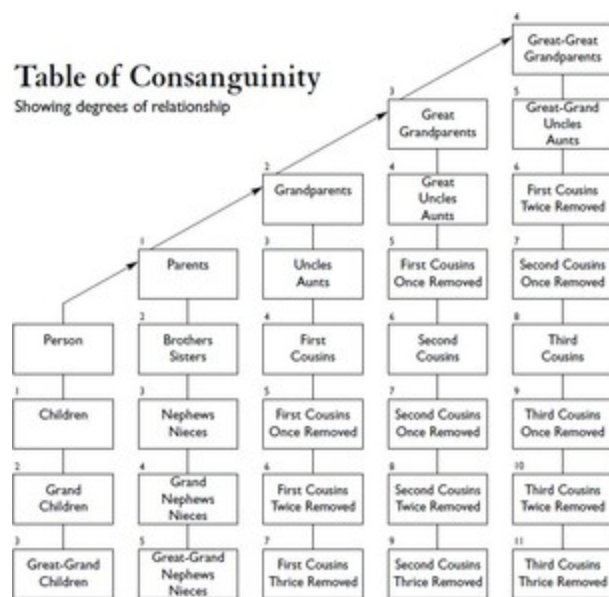
Relatively Speaking - Consanguinity

With DNA Analysis, an indication of “relatedness” is the amount of DNA shared between individuals. Consanguinity refers to blood relationships between individuals who share a common ancestor.

Consanguinity is categorized by the proximity of the shared ancestor:

- First-Degree: Parent-child, sibling-sibling.
- Second-Degree: Aunt-nephew, grandparent-grandchild.
- Third-Degree: First cousins.
- Higher Degrees: Second cousins and beyond, where genetic risk is generally considered close to the general population.

The "closeness" of a blood relationship is measured in degrees, which represent the number of steps (generations) between two relatives in a pedigree chart.



(Credit: WClarke, based on original by User: Sg647112c, Wikimedia Commons)

Upcoming Events

[DGS General Meeting](#)

May 2nd, 11:00am

[German Genealogy Group](#)

May 9th 10:30am – 12:00pm

[Jewish Special Interest Group](#)

May 11th 10:30am – 12:00pm

[Collin County Genealogy Meeting](#)

May 13th 6:00pm – 8:30pm

[African American Genealogical Interest Group](#)

May 16th, 2:00pm – 3:30pm

[DNA Special Interest Group](#)

May 21st 6:00pm – 7:30pm

[Best Practices SIG](#)

May 23rd, 10:30am – 12:00

[National Genealogical Society Annual Conference](#)

May 27th – 30th Fort Wayne, Indiana

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](#)

This edition edited by Patricia Hernandez



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