



Tweet

Share

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

[Join Today!](#)



DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
EXPLORE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY WITH US

eNews - July 2026

Celebrating America's 250th Birthday!



In celebration of our Nation's 250th birthday, we have invited Revolutionary War expert genealogist Craig R Scott to discuss how to research the documents produced by the war to find our Patriot ancestors!

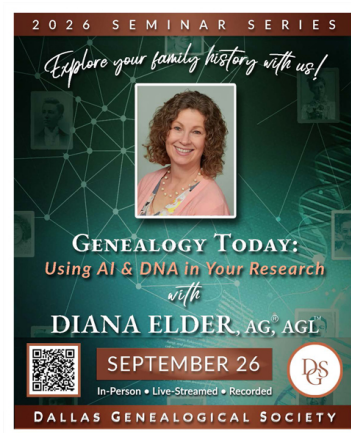
Mr. Scott will cover a Revolutionary War Case Study, Records created by the War, and Records created after the War, both Pension and Bounty Land applications.

Please join us July 25 from 9:30 – 3:30 at the downtown J Erik Jonsson library or on-line to participate in this exciting event! Recordings will be available through Sunday, August 9th.

MORE INFO

REGISTER NOW

Save the Date - Fall Seminar on September 26th!



Diana Elder AGR, AGLT is a professional genealogist accredited in the Gulf South region and serves on the advisory board for The International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen). She is the author of *Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide* and co-author of *Research Like a Pro with DNA*, which have helped thousands of researchers strengthen their genealogical methodology.

With her daughter Nicole, Diana has built a comprehensive educational platform teaching the *Research Like a Pro* methodology through study groups, an interactive eCourse, and the *Research Like a Pro Genealogy Podcast*. She

shares research strategies on Family Locket (familyloket.com), making professional-level techniques accessible to genealogists worldwide.

A sought-after speaker, Diana presents regularly at RootsTech, the National Genealogical Society Conference, and institutes, as well as genealogy societies throughout the United States and internationally. We have the pleasure of welcoming Diana as our guest speaker in the fall when she presents “Genealogy Today: Using AI and DNA in Your Research”!

MORE INFO

President's Message

As we move through another exciting summer for the Dallas Genealogical Society, I am reminded of the many ways our shared passion for family history connects us - not only to our ancestors but also to our community and our nation's story.

First, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members. We are delighted to have 22 new and returning members this summer. Whether you are just beginning your family history journey or are an experienced researcher, we are glad you are part of our society. Our organization thrives because of the knowledge, enthusiasm, and camaraderie of members who share a common interest in discovering and preserving family stories.



Speaking of preserving history, I am especially excited to share information about our upcoming participation in North Texas Giving Day. This year's fundraising effort will support the purchase of a new scanner for the Dallas Public Library. Genealogists understand the importance of preserving documents, photographs, and records for future generations. This equipment will help ensure that valuable historical materials can be digitized and made more accessible to researchers for years to come. I encourage everyone to participate and help us reach our goal when North Texas Giving Day arrives. Together, we can make a lasting contribution to one of the most important genealogical resources in our community.

I also encourage members to read the recent blog post by Dr. Terry Turner, who shares his experiences tracking and documenting his ancestors. His story is a wonderful reminder that genealogy is both a research endeavor and a personal journey. Every discovery - whether a long-sought record, a family photograph, or a newly identified ancestor - adds another piece to the larger story of who we are and where we came from.

Dr. Turner's reflections are especially timely as our nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of American independence. As communities across the country continue to commemorate this historic milestone, genealogists have a unique opportunity to connect national history with family history. The events that shaped our country also shaped the lives of our ancestors. By researching their experiences, we gain a deeper understanding of how our families participated in, witnessed, or were affected by the unfolding story of America. Genealogy allows us to move beyond dates and events in

history books and discover the real people whose lives contributed to the nation's development over the past two and a half centuries.

As we look ahead to the months ahead, I hope you will continue exploring your family history, supporting our fundraising efforts, and engaging with the many educational opportunities offered by DGS. Together, we are preserving the past, celebrating the present, and creating a legacy for future researchers. Thank you for your continued support of the Dallas Genealogical Society.

Happy researching,
Beri Kaplan Schwitzer
President, Dallas Genealogical Society

Congratulations to Our Award Winners!



At our May 2nd General meeting, we recognized a number of individuals, both volunteers at DGS and individuals actively involved in genealogical education and preservation. Our awards and this year's winners were:

- Award of Merit: **Bernard Meisner** and **Ann Broihier**, German Genealogy Group
- Volunteer of the Year : **Betty Case**, hospitality and Best Practices
- Heritage Presentation: **Daniel Babb**, preservation of the Dallas Paupers Cemetery
- Lloyd Dewitt Bockstruck Award: **Blaine T. Bettinger**, Genetic Genealogy
- President's Award: **Susan Rainwater**, Treasurer and **Tony Hanson**, Past President



Read more about their individual contributions on our blog.

[MORE INFO](#)

Dr. Terry Turner: When Grace Flows Backward

As America commemorates its 250th anniversary, Dr. Terry M. Turner reflects on seven generations of his own family's journey—from enslavement in colonial Georgia to

freedom, faith, and community building in Texas and Oklahoma. Drawing on more than twenty years of research, he demonstrates how records, DNA, and persistence can recover the stories of ancestors long hidden from history. His powerful essay reminds us that understanding America's past requires telling the stories of all who helped shape it. Read the full article to discover this remarkable family history.

Dr. Turner also launched a YouTube channel called “Embracing our Ancestors” to teach African Americans how to study their lineage. We’re proud and excited to have Terry return to our board as Secretary in the fall!



READ MORE

The Library Needs a Need Scanner



In 2018 the Dallas Genealogical Society donated more than \$52,000 to the Genealogy & History Division of the Dallas Public Library to create a Heritage Lab equipped with a high-quality book scanner. The Dallas Public Library is the only institution in the greater Dallas-Fort Worth region that provides public access to a scanner with these capabilities: Countless researchers, students, historians, and other library patrons have used the scanner to digitize and preserve irreplaceable records.

The Dallas Genealogical Society has donated an additional \$16,850 to extend the manufacturer’s warranty on the scanner. However, the scanner has now reached the end of its service life: the manufacturer no longer offers warranty support, and the library needs a replacement. The

focus of our 2026 North Texas Giving Day campaign will be to raise funds for this replacement (estimated to cost \$32,360) ensuring that this valuable community resource remains available for years to come.

The North Texas Giving Day event kicks off in September. Offering matching funds during the campaign has been shown to attract donors, so we are kicking our campaign off now to seek donations that will be used as matching funds.

Donating is easy:

1. Log into your DGS account at <https://dgs.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/dgs/login.jsp>
2. Select “Donations – Make/Review” from the “What would you like to do?” pull- down menu.
3. Click on the “Donate Now” button.

Your gift will help preserve the stories, documents, and history that connect generations. Please help us keep history accessible for everyone!

DNA Special Interest Group

By Jean Larson

In September, the Dallas Genealogical Society is excited to have Diana Elder present on a favorite topic - using AI and DNA in genealogy research. After the seminar the DNA Special Interest Group could be of assistance in learning how to use DNA in your genealogy research.



We meet on the third Thursday of every other month at 6:00, by Zoom, to learn more. Our DNA SIG meetings are open to all. Membership in DGS is encouraged, but not required. We will begin with beginning sessions to learn the basics and continue with sessions to broaden your knowledge. We look forward to seeing you there!

LEARN MORE

Annual Texas State Genealogical Awards



Hopefully you are aware that the Dallas Genealogical Society has a pretty good website. Thanks to the hard work of webmaster Todd DeDecker (with a lot of assistance from Susan Rainwater and Tony Hanson) our website has been recognized as the best in the State of Texas several times in the Texas State Genealogical Society (TxSGS) Annual Website competition (see <https://dallasgenealogy.org/about/society-awards/>).

You may not be aware that TXSGS also presents several website awards for individual websites:

- Category II: Website for an individual member's genealogy and family history.
- Category III: Website by an individual member of a general genealogy or historical nature, not specifically on the member's family, but a county web page or a DNA study.

To be eligible, an individual needs to be a member of TxSGS in 2026. TxSGS offers a variety of additional awards in several publication categories as well.

Additional information about the website competition can be found here:

<https://www.txsgs.org/programs/awards-grants/website-awards/>

Information about the writing awards can be viewed at

<https://www.txsgs.org/programs/awards-grants/writing-awards/>.

Submissions are due no later than September 15, 2026. 2026. Award winners (\$100 first place, \$75 second place, and \$50 third place in each of the three categories) will be announced at the 2026 TxSGS Family History Conference on November 6-7.

DAR and SAR Registration

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) or Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) but don't know where to start? Dallas and Dallas county have a number of chapters, each one with its own personality and culture. Meeting times and activities vary as well.



You can look on the website of either organization for a location that would fit your schedule. Plan to reach out to the chapter and attend a meeting or two. If you have identified a Patriot within your direct lineage, you will need to work with the registrar at the chapter you choose in order to submit an application. Each chapter has an appointed Registrar who can answer questions and assist with submitted your completed application.

The first three generations require specific documents - birth, death and marriage certificates. Proving the relationships of generations beyond this can rely on obituaries, Find A Grave, Census, Probate and other records. Your Patriot ancestor may already be included in a database with a descendant you may know or recognize. You can also purchase some of the documents which have already been submitted if you are a descendant of a specific proven lineage.

The celebration of our Nation's 250th birthday is a great reason to look into becoming a member of these organizations!

My Heritage Scribe AI Transcription/Translation Tool

By Tony Hanson

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming family history research, and MyHeritage's new Scribe AI tool offers an impressive glimpse of what is possible. With the ability to transcribe, translate, summarize, and interpret handwritten documents in multiple languages, it can save researchers hours of work while providing valuable historical context. In this article, Tony Hanson shares an example of Scribe AI in action.



Can you read this? Scribe AI can!

READ MORE

Welcome to Our New and Returning Members!

We are loving the response and interest shown in May and June to the programs and speakers our Society has to offer!

We want to give a shout out to our new and returning members - all 22 of them!



- Marolyn Armstrong
- Michele Bailey
- Serge Blain
- Sandra Crowley
- Debra Geesner
- John Griffin
- Jonelle Hilleary
- Linda Holland
- Judith Jackson
- Rhonda Lucich
- Susie Marshall
- Cathy Meister
- Lillian Napper
- Meturia Ra*Shad
- Anne Reed – Returning member
- Marjorie Shaw
- Charles Stricklin
- Linda Veitch
- Isabelle Ward
- Cynthia Ware – Returning member – Scotland, Normandy area of France, Canada and Plymouth, Mass.
- Elizabeth Whitley
- Sherry Young

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

Relatively Speaking

Lineage societies have a vocabulary of their own. If you're in the process of applying, knowing what the terms mean can make your life much easier!

By Bryna O'Sullivan, Charter Oak Genealogy

- **Lineage Society:** Also called a hereditary society, this is an organization that decides membership based on the actions of an applicant's ancestor.
- **Qualifying ancestor:** An ancestor who meets the qualifications set out by the society.
- **Patriot:** A qualifying ancestor for a Revolutionary War lineage society, typically the Sons or Daughters of the American Revolution.
- **"The line":** The line between the applicant and the qualifying ancestor.

- **“Line carrier” or “Line bearer”:** The person through whom the line runs. If the qualifying ancestor is on your mother’s side, your mother would be the “line carrier.”
- **Supporting documentation:** The sources used to document the line. Also called proof.
- **The application packet:** A completed application with supporting documentation.
- **To prove the line:** “Proving the line” means establishing the relationship between the applicant and the ancestor using the standards of the society.
- **Marking the application:** Adding red underlining and generation numbers as requested by the society.

Upcoming Events

Dallas Public Library

[What You Can Learn From Lineage Societies.....Without Being a Member!](#)

July 22nd, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

[Genealogy 101: Where to Start? \(\\$20 fee\)](#)

Opal Lawrence Historical Park Barn

July 23rd, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

[North Carolina Genealogical Society Fall Conference](#)

Raleigh, NC or Virtual

September 18th - 19th

[Texas State Genealogical Society](#)

Genealogy Essentials Series 2

Launches August 3rd

About the Dallas Genealogical Society

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

This edition edited by Patricia Hernandez

EST'D



1955



Share

Dallas Genealogical Society
866-968-2347

info@dallasgenealogy.org | www.dallasgenealogy.org

© 2026, Dallas Genealogical Society

[Forward this message to a friend](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

Dallas Genealogical Society
391 Las Colinas Blvd E
Ste 130-2112
Irving, Texas 75039-6291
USA

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

