

[Tweet](#)[Share](#)[Click to view this email in a browser](#)[Join Today!](#)

DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
EXPLORE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY WITH US

eNews - September 2026

You Did It! Now Let's Find 250 Donors

Thanks to the generosity of DGS members and friends, we reached our entire \$5,000 matching-fund goal! Now we're putting those funds to work.



DGS AMERICA 250 CHALLENGE

We are looking for 250 donors willing to donate \$25 (or more). All donations will help DGS purchase a \$34,000 replacement scanner for the Genealogy & History Division of the Dallas Public Library.

[Donate Now](#)

And we have some exciting news.

We will take a major step forward on the project at our September 5 General Meeting.

September 5th General Meeting - FAN Principles for Problem Solving

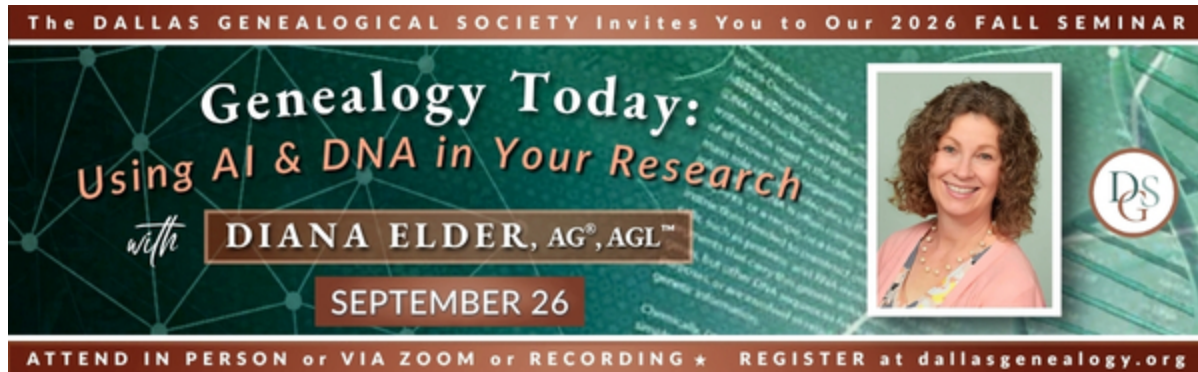
Please join us in person or on-line September 5th when Laura Cubbage-Draper will present a discussion on Cluster and Collateral Research.

Researching beyond our direct ancestors can be the key that opens doors to unknown information on our ancestors. Laura will cover strategies for researching our Friends, Acquaintances, and Neighbors (FAN) group to help solve genealogical problems.

LEARN MORE



Diana Elder at our Fall Seminar - September 26th!



Diana Elder AGR, AGLTM 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 (familylocket.com), making professional-level techniques accessible to genealogists worldwide.

Here are some of the topics Diana will be covering in her presentation:

- Streamlining Genealogical Research Plans with AI: A Step-by-Step Guide
- Efficient Locality Search with AI
- From Complex to Clear: Transform Court Records with AI Tools
- Solving a Family Mystery with DNA

Recordings will be available from Sunday September 26 through Sunday October 11, 2026.

As a Special Offer, non-members may also add a DGS membership for \$5 at the time of registration and receive member pricing for future seminars. Hope to see you on September 26th!

[MORE INFO](#)[REGISTER NOW](#)

DGS Leadership Transition

The Dallas Genealogical Society Board of Directors has announced that Beri Schwitzer resigned as President of DGS effective August 12, 2026, following a significant increase in her professional responsibilities.

Beri has served DGS with enthusiasm, creativity, and a strong commitment to the Society, its members, and its mission. The Board is grateful for her leadership and many contributions and is pleased that she hopes to remain involved with DGS as her circumstances permit.

The Board is addressing the leadership transition in accordance with the Society's bylaws. DGS programs, meetings, seminars, and other activities will continue as planned, and additional information about the Society's leadership will be shared when transition arrangements have been finalized.

We thank Beri for her service to DGS and wish her well as she takes on her increased professional responsibilities.

Best Practices SIG

You've Found the Family Story. Now What? Come to Best Practices!

The Dallas Genealogical Society is dedicated to helping its members discover their families, strengthen their research skills, and share their love of family history with others. Most of us came to genealogy because we love the hunt—the excitement of finding a long-sought record, identifying an ancestor, solving a mystery, or uncovering one of those small treasures that brings a family story to life. But finding the information is only part of good genealogy. **What do we do with everything we find?** How do we organize our research so that we—or someone else—can understand it years from now? Have we searched thoroughly enough and used the best available sources? How do we evaluate conflicting information and know our conclusions are supported by the evidence? And are we ready to share—or even publish—our work? These are the kinds of questions we explore in the **DGS Best Practices Special Interest Group (SIG)**.



The goal of Best Practices is in the name: **learning to put best practices into action in our own research**. We promote excellence in genealogical and family-history research and help family historians become better researchers, producing work they can confidently preserve, share, and publish. A central focus is learning to apply the **Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS)**—the recognized standard used by professional genealogists to evaluate the quality and reliability of genealogical research. But the

GPS isn't just for professionals. Its principles can make *all* of us better family historians.

You do not have to be a professional genealogist to produce professional-quality work. If you've moved beyond simply collecting names and records and want to strengthen the quality of your research, **we invite you to join us. Best Practices SIG meets every 4th Saturday, 10:30 - 12:00 in the McDermott Room on the 8th floor. Come join us!**

LEARN MORE

Honoring Shirley Remnant Sloat



We are saddened to share the passing of Shirley Remnant Sloat, a longtime member, volunteer, and former president of the Dallas Genealogical Society. Shirley died July 17, 2026, at the age of 93.

Genealogy was one of Shirley's great passions and following her retirement she devoted many years of service to DGS and the Dallas Public Library. She served on the DGS Board for many years and was President in 2005, when the Society celebrated its 50th anniversary. Shirley also led numerous projects to preserve and publish Dallas County records, helped strengthen the resources of the Dallas Public Library's Genealogy Section, and was a longtime volunteer on the library's 8th floor. Her contributions were recognized with numerous honors, including the DGS Award of Merit and Heritage Preservation Awards, Dallas Public Library Certificates of Excellence, and the Friends of the Dallas Public Library A.C. Greene Award.

Shirley's daughter, Laurel, recently made a generous donation to DGS in her mother's memory. We are deeply grateful for the gift and for Shirley's many years of dedication to the Society, the library, and the preservation of Dallas County history. Her work has left a lasting legacy for generations of researchers. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Laurel and the entire Sloat family.

AI Experiments

Three years ago, most genealogists weren't talking about AI. Today, it's helping us transcribe documents, organize research, uncover patterns, and even build custom tools in an afternoon.

The question isn't whether AI belongs in genealogy anymore. The question is: how are we going to use it?

At Dallas Genealogy, we're introducing a bit of a playground for exploring that question. There are tools aplenty but how are you employing this technology? What is

truly moving your research forward? We've added a new section under our Collections tab entitled "Experiments".

As we move deeper into the age of AI, why not have some fun and see how we can use AI for our research in new and unique ways. Content added to this section is designed to provide ideas and to get your creative juices flowing. Some of these will be simple and others more complex

LEARN MORE

Proposed 2026 - 2027 DGS Budget

The budget for the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year was approved by the board of directors at the August 15 planning meeting.

A draft version can be viewed at

https://dallasgenealogy.org/DGS_Docs/Budget/2026_2027_Draft_Budget.pdf.

A vote to approve the proposed budget will be held at the September 5, 2026 General Meeting.

Attention History Lovers: Hall of State at the State Fair of Texas and DAR House Happenings

By Sharon Bowles

The Great State Fair of Texas is Coming! As a native Dallasite, going to the Fair is in my emotional DNA. This year it runs **Sept 25-Oct 18 at Fair Park in Dallas**. By far my favorite building is the Hall of State, which the Dallas Historical Association manages.

As a child, my grandmother took we kids to Fair Park weekly in the summer to feed the ducks at the Lagoon and go through all the wonderful museums there. I resonated the most with the beautiful Art Deco Hall of State, dedicated to the history of the Lone Star State. It was built in 1936 for the state's centennial. I was fascinated with the dioramas of scenes from Texas history, showcases of real items that belonged to Texas heroes and pioneers, imposing statues of the state founders (including my ancestor Sam Houston), the towering murals of early Texas history and the majestic seal in the Great Hall, and so much more. There was not a lot of traffic on a summer weekday in the building, so I felt like I pretty much owned the place!



I still must go see the Hall of State when I visit Fair Park. Each year there are special exhibits during Fair time, in addition to the standing exhibits and G. B Dealey research library. This year the Great Hall will feature the Mundo Latino (formerly located in the Women's Museum). Join in the colorful celebration of Latin art, culture and music. There will be daily performances and a vibrant Mercado with vendors.

In the North Texas Room, Texas Women's University will honor their 125th anniversary with the exhibit "Blazing New Trails: Inside 125 Years of Change." The establishment of TWU provided access to education and advocacy for women in Texas. Expect to see plenty of historical archives and highlights of the university's historic collections. The Hall of State is open 7 days per week, with hours of 10am-7pm during the State Fair. Admission is totally free and there is great air conditioning inside!

Another must see for historians is the Continental DAR (Daughters of the American Republic) House managed by the Jane Douglas DAR chapter. It is a modest white frame house among the Art Deco buildings. Its name comes from the Continental Oil Company, that built the house for the 1936 Centennial. It served as the Hospitality House for the fair that year. There are always lots of interesting history exhibits there. A few years ago, we got to "sign" the Declaration of Independence, witnessed by a gentleman in colonial dress. This year's featured exhibit will be about Women in the Revolutionary War. An insider secret, the DAR House is known to have the best price and coldest soft drinks on the fairgrounds!

We hope you will consider a trip to the Hall of State and the DAR House at Fair Park, either during the State Fair, or during calmer, non-Fair times, when you can park right in front of the Hall of State, instead of a far-off parking lot.

Will Their Names Be Remembered?

Can you name all eight of your great-grandparents? How much do you know about their lives - the places they called home, the work they performed, the challenges they faced, and the stories they passed down?

As genealogists, we may be better prepared than most people to answer these questions. Yet we are often reminded how quickly family knowledge can disappear. How many times have we eagerly opened a long-sought death certificate, hoping to discover the names of a parent or birthplace, only to find the word "unknown"? The loss of family information is not a recent problem.

Every name we identify, every document we locate, every photograph we preserve, and every story we record helps prevent another piece of family history from being lost. But our discoveries are valuable only if they are preserved and shared. Consider writing down what you know, labeling family photographs, recording the memories of older relatives, and giving copies of your research to younger generations or an appropriate repository.

The Dallas Genealogical Society is committed to helping researchers discover, document, preserve, and share their family histories. Through our programs, seminars, publications, and special-interest groups, DGS introduces members to the technologies and research methods that can help answer questions about the past - and ensure that those answers remain available to future generations.

Our ancestors' stories have survived long enough for us to discover them. Let's make certain that the details of their lives - and the stories we uncover - do not end with us.

GRIP Genealogical Organization Excellence Course

Six of the Dallas Genealogical Society board members - Chris Bryant, Todd DeDecker, Melissa Fleming, Sue Gover-Lee, Pat Hernandez, and Tony Hanson - have committed to participating in Genealogical Organization Excellence: A Course for Group Leadership, an intensive nine-week, 18-session course offered virtually by the GRIP Genealogy Institute from September through November 2026.



Developed in alignment with the National Genealogical Society Delegate Council's Excellence Recognition Program, the course focuses on nonprofit management, organizational self-evaluation, leadership development, and continuous improvement, while also addressing challenges unique to genealogical organizations.

Participation represents a significant commitment of time and effort by these five DGS leaders. Over nine weeks, they will attend 18 instructional sessions while continuing to fulfill their responsibilities to the Society. Their willingness to make this investment reflects a shared commitment to strengthening their society-management skills and bringing new ideas, proven practices, and fresh perspectives back to DGS.

The knowledge gained through the course will help DGS evaluate its current practices, identify opportunities for improvement, and continue building a strong and sustainable organization that effectively serves its members and the broader genealogical community.

Welcome New Members!

We would like to welcome our new members who joined DGS during July and August! We're so excited to have you join our community!

- Margaret Baker
- Dwayne Bridges
- Era Jane DeFord
- Debbie Hutchison
- Judy Jackson -- Interested in piecing together families and enjoys interacting with others with the same goals. Definition of family is the people that interacted with one another to survive.
- Bill Katt
- Mary Katherine Maddox
- Jeanne Nickel
- Candice Scheresky
- Brooks Snyder
- Susan Stennett
- Patricia Stigger
- Connie Styons



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

Upcoming Events

[2026 German-Texan Heritage Society Annual Conference](#)

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Austin, TX
September 12th

[German Genealogy Group](#)

September 13th 10:30am – 12:00pm

[North Carolina Genealogical Society Fall Conference](#)

September 18th -19th,
Raleigh, NC or Virtual

[Best Practices SIG](#)

September 26th, 10:30am – 1:00pm

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](#)

This edition edited by Patricia Hernandez



Share

Dallas Genealogical Society
866-968-2347

info@dallasgenealogy.org | www.dallasgenealogy.org

© 2026, Dallas Genealogical Society
[Forward this message to a friend](#)

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

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

