DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY





VOLUME 38, NUMBER 3

JULY—SEPTEMBER 2012

1940 Census Society Indexing Project is Here

The 1940 Census Indexing Project is sponsoring a society indexing contest that offers some great prizes for participating society winners. There are a couple of categories, depending on the size and activity of each society's group. Requirements and prizes will vary for each category.

Join DGS as an indexer! Not only are you helping fellow genealogists find their family members more quickly, but you are also helping DGS compete for one of these valuable prizes.

Grand Prize for Per Capita Production on the 1940 Index

The grand prize will be awarded to the society with the highest average number of records indexed and arbitrated per person by a society with two or more people in their indexing group. They must have a 95% or higher indexing accuracy average.

Prize: A mini-conference presented at your society location. The total value of this package is \$6,000! This prize includes:

- Four genealogists, each teaching three sessions (Speaker fees, travel, and accommodations are included).
- A syllabus of the conference presentations on a USB drive, CD, or print format (depending on the actual number of attendees).
- Your society provides the site for the conference or we can provide a local FamilySearch family history center where the conference can be held.
- Competition will go from April 2nd and continue until the 1940 US Census project is completely arbitrated, after which the winner will be announced.

Runner-up Prize for Per Capita Production on the 1940 Index

A second-place prize will be awarded to the society with the second-highest average number of records indexed and arbitrated per person by a society with two or more people in their indexing group. They must have a 95% or higher indexing accuracy average.

Prize: The prize will be a 1/2 day webinar mini-conference, for a total value of \$1,700. This prize includes:

- Four one-hour Family History Library sessions of your choice
- A projector
- An HD webcam
- An annual subscription to GoToWebinar (a webinar provider service)
- A laptop computer

Competition will go from April 2nd and continue until the 1940 US Census project is completed. The winner will be announced one week after the last state is arbitrated. For more information, visit www.dallasgenealogy.org.

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Dallas Genealogical Society P.O. Box 12446 Dallas, Texas 75225-0446 www.dallasgenealogy.org

Submit articles to editorial@dallasgenealogy.org See Guidelines on back page or on DGS website for additional details. PAGE 18 VOLUME 38, NUMBER 3

President's Column

David Temple

I hope you enjoyed the lectures given by Josh Taylor. The audience was large, attentive, entertained and educated. Based on your early feedback, we hope to have Josh back soon.

You will note this newsletter issue is devoted to military record resources. Military service is represented by a large group of records which can be

mined for genealogical details not always found in other sources. These records sometimes require a considerable amount of time to search but finding aids exist and some are taking advantage of technology. I have run across a wide variety over the years with good results.

When applying for pensions, widows of veterans often were required to provide affidavits attesting to their husband's military service. The Texas Confederate pension file of Celia E. Ellison includes a letter from her brother advising Celia her husband died in camp and was buried in Oakland, Texas. His name does not show up on any Texas unit roster; however, her application for pension was allowed and the original letter remained part of the file, available on microfilm.

The children of Isaac Reynolds filed affidavits with the State of Texas attesting to their father's service in the Army of the Republic of Texas. The records provide dates of service, unit officers and date of death for the veteran as well as place of residence for the children. These records are available as images on the Texas State Library and Archives website in a group of records named Republic Claims, which has free access. When all the images for Isaac are read, a copy of a Republic of Texas payment voucher can be located.

Earlier in his life, Isaac served in a company of spies during the Creek War in Alabama. A search of the Index to the War of 1812 Pension records provided the file number. The pension file is available from the National Archives and provides a marriage date, service information, and unit officers.

Silas M. Sitton died from smallpox and was buried in a numbered grave in the cemetery outside the walls of the notorious Camp Douglas in Chicago, Illinois. He was one of 6,000 Confederates who died in that camp and are now buried in a mass grave. These records are described in a blog on the National Archives website.

We are very fortunate that the Dallas Public Library has a substantial collection of military records in the Genealogy Section on the 8th Floor. Among other things, these records include the Index to the War of 1812 Pension records and the Confederate pensions for Texas on microfilm. These are a fascinating group of records and can be addictive once you get started reading them.

To learn more about research in military records, DGS is bringing noted expert Craig Scott to Dallas on September 29th for a series of lectures. Learn more in this newsletter or visit www.dallasgenealogy.org for details.

FINDING ROLL NUMBERS FOR THE 1940 U.S. CENSUS

When documenting U.S. census records from NARA, most genealogy software programs include a field for the roll number within the series. Indexed records on Ancestry.com for previous census image databases include the roll numbers in the sourcing information on their website. FamilySearch.org provides this information as well for previous census images.

How do you find roll numbers for the 1940 U.S. Census, most of which is not yet indexed? Start by going to the NARA website at:

http://estore.archives.gov/Category/105_1/1940_Census.aspx.

This is the NARA eStore webpage, but some of the information is free for



Director-Volunteer Coordination Patrick McKinney volunteer@dallasgenealogy.org

Webmaster Tony Hanson webmaster@dallasgenealogy.org

IT Administrator Barbara Ware administrator@dallasgenealogy.org

Mail Administrator Elizabeth Thurmond

Jim Stone

Sales Manager sales@dallasgenealogy.org

editorial@dallasgenealogy.org

 Parliamentarian
 Vacant

 The Dallas Journal Editor
 Vacant

 DGS Newsletter Editor
 Vacant

Library Liaison Sharon Martin Hospitality Robert and Linda Lane

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downloading, including "A Finding Aid for T627 - Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940 microfilm." The link brings up a 125-page PDF file that lists every roll number by county for every state, in alphabetical order.

Also, if you are using Ancestry.com to view images, when you print an image from the census there will be a tag line that includes the series number, roll number and page. For example, here is Lakewood, Cuyahoga, Ohio, ED18-219: M-T0627-03056-00278.

T0627 is the series, 3056 is the roll number, and 278 is the page. 3056 is also the roll number for ED 18-219 given in the NARA finding aid.

To date it appears that you cannot find the same information at FamilySearch.org.

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Below is a genealogical research report which follows a type presented to the Brown Bag discussion group in November 2011. The assignment was to write and research a genealogical problem within certain time limitations using the model presented. The class members were to find a problem which they thought could be researched and written up within two hours. They would find the problem and then put the probable sources into a table form. Another research form would track their research progress while they were doing it. Then the results would be written up.

The whole class found the exercise useful but Neal was the one who best followed the instructions for the report. Neal said this about the assignment: "Here is my paper. To be truthful, it took me a little longer than two hours. I did like the exercise because it did two things: I had to plan better than I normally do AND I had to stay focused on the research. I'm normally in 'shotgun' mode."

DGS Newsletter readers might want to try to follow this method if they want to plan and focus their research.

Janet Khashab, AG Brown Bag Instructor

Two Hour Research Project

Neal McEwen

The Problem: Did William A. Buffalo serve in the Civil War?

Background and Previous Research: Buffalo family oral history says William A. Buffalo was born in Tennessee and served in the Civil War. No previous research has been done on the Buffalo family.

Sources to be searched:

Source	Persons	Repository
National Park Service Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database	William A. Buffalo	http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/
Compiled Military Service Records	William A. Buffalo	Footnote.com

Research Log					
Ancestor: William A. Buffalo					
Researcher: Neal McEwen Client		Client: T. Powell			
Objectives: Determine if William A. Buffalo served in the CivilWar		Repositories: National Park Service, Footnote.com Date: 27 November 2011 Time: 2-4 PM (2 hours)			
Source	Description	Comments	Results		
NPS Soldiers and Sailors	Database of all known men who served in the Civil War, North and South	This is a good place to start in determining service.	Buffalo, William A., Co. "A", Confederate Cavalry McGehee's Regiment, Arkansas Cavalry—Short Regimental History		
Compiled Military Service Records—Footnote.com	NARA's compilation of each soldiers records, scanned by Footnote. Or- ganized by state and unit.	Subscription database. Recently changed name to Fold3.com although the old URL still works.	Volunteered, medically discharged twice, joined again, captured, died of measles in Illinois prison. Very Rich File.		

Research Results: The two derivative sources above were searched for information concerning William A. Buffalo. It was determined that Buffalo did indeed serve in the Civil War, in Company "A" of McGehee's Regiment of Arkansas Cavalry, a Confederate unit.

William volunteered for service. He was discharged twice for a chronically sore leg, but volunteered a third time. He was recovering from an unspecified illness in a home near Jefferson City, Missouri, when he was captured. He was taken to a prison in St. Louis in the fall of 1864 where overcrowded conditions forced his transfer to a prison in Alton, Illinois. *(continued on next page)*

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Two Hour Research Project (cont'd)

While in Alton prison, he was interviewed by the prison staff to determine if he was a threat to the Union; if he were perceived a threat, he would be ineligible for parole. William stated that he was sympathetic to the Confederate cause and did not wish to be paroled. He wanted to be exchanged for a Yankee prisoner.

During the threat assessment, William stated that he was born in Bedford County, Tennessee, he was 35 years of age, had two children and lived in Cross County, Arkansas. Shortly after his incarceration, he became sick with measles and was examined by the prison medical staff. Twenty days later, on 29 November 1864, he died at Alton prison.

[If he had sworn an oath to the Union (parole), he would have been set free, bound not to bear arms against the U. S., or put in a western frontier Union Cavalry regiment protecting settlers from Indians—N. Mc.]

Further Research:

- 1. Look for the burial place of William. Was he buried at the prison, in a common grave, a Confederate Cemetery or was the body shipped home?
- 2. Look for regimental histories of McGehee's Cavalry to learn more about William's service.

Last Chance for Rooms for Salt Lake City Trip!!

If you are planning on joining the DGS trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City September 12-19, **the deadline for making hotel reservations is July 12.** After that date the Plaza Hotel (next door to the Library) will release the rooms being held for us. <u>Call 1-800-366-3684 to reserve your room from the DGS block</u>. After you make your reservations, email Jean Larson at <u>education@dallasgenealogy.org</u> so she has a record. Let her know if you need a roommate.

After making your hotel reservation, send your registration form, \$85 fee, and medical form to the address below. If you have already made your hotel reservations but have not submitted your registration form, fee and medical form, do that now. The forms are on the DGS website under the "Calendar" tab. Click on "Special events," then select "Salt Lake City trip."

Make checks payable to: Dallas Genealogical Society

Mail to: DGS Salt Lake City Trip P.O. Box 12446 Dallas, TX 75225-0446

DGS Beginners' Classes a Great Success

The Education Committee conducted classes for beginning genealogy researchers on three consecutive Saturdays in April. We wanted to piggyback on the interest generated by the *Who Do You Think You Are* and *Finding Your Roots* television series. They were well-attended and well-received by ethnically-diverse attendees who varied in age from the thirties to the sixties.

The first session focused on basics, such as building your pedigree chart, interviewing family members, gathering information from records in your home, documenting sources, and completing family group sheets.

The second session focused on Federal and state censuses: what types are available and where to locate them, instructions on how to identify the information needed to find a family in the 1940 U.S. Census, and how to document key sources.

The third session covered other records needed to research localities and surnames, such as land records, military records, vital records, and court records.

One of the attendees is beginning to research her family and the community and house in which they lived. She learned how to use genealogical records as well as the records in the Texas/Dallas History collection to achieve her goal. Another attendee needed help in how to find records in Eastern Europe where many countries' boundaries changed over time, so it is difficult to tell in which location to look.

The Education Committee is now looking at ways that DGS can continue to serve as a knowledge source for such individuals, either with more classes or with informal sessions at the Library.

Presentations and resource lists for all three sessions are on the DGS website at:

http://www.dallasgenealogy.org/index.php?

Send Us Your 1940 Census Finds!

Now that the 1940 U.S. Census is here, what new information have you found about your ancestors? Did this census help you break through a brick wall? What surprises were there? Were family secrets uncovered? Did something make you laugh? Cry?

Were any of your ancestors chosen to answer the supplementary information questions? Did anyone supply misleading or incorrect information?

Send your stories to editorial@dallasgenealogy.org. We'll publish the most interesting ones in the Oct-Dec issue of the DGS Newsletter. Start submitting material now, but the final deadline date is August 1. Marianne Szabo, Director of Publication Content

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DGS Receives \$40,500 Bequest from Morrison Estate

The Dallas Genealogical Society has received a bequest from the

Estate of C. Maxine Morrison in the amount of \$40,500. C. Maxine Morrison was born June 15, 1917 in Cloverdale, Indiana, to Louis Franklin Morrison and Nora Elizabeth Cunningham. She graduated from Indiana State University and worked for the FDIC, GAO, and Post Office Department in Washington, D.C., Asheville, NC, and Dallas, TX. After early retirement in 1971 she traveled to Australia and New Zealand, China, Europe, and Japan, as well as to many places in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.



C. Maxine Morrison

A member of DGS for almost 20 years, Maxine did genealogical research, including visits to courthouses, libraries, and cemeteries in Indiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

She died January 11, 2011, and was buried in Cloverdale.

A check in the amount of the bequest was received from Martha Shaw, Executrix, also a former DGS member. The DGS Board is considering how best to use this bequest and will announce their decision at a future General Meeting of the Society when Ms. Shaw can be present.

How to make a bequest to the Dallas Genealogical Society: if you are interested in including the DGS in your estate plans, you may do so by making a provision in your will for a specific amount, or for a percentage of your estate to be paid to the DGS.

New, Easy Access for All to DGS Newsletter

In response to member and non-member feedback, the DGS Board approved changes in how the quarterly *DGS Newsletter* will be distributed effective immediately.

Members will receive an email "notice of publication" each quarter that includes a direct link to the most recent *Newsletter*. Only one click will be required to view the newsletter (which can also be printed or saved to your computer). There will no longer be a need to go to the DGS website to read the *Newsletter*; however, the newsletter will be available to anyone visiting our website.

Members: be sure that you provide your email address in your member profile, accessed by logging into the "Members Only" section of the DGS website!

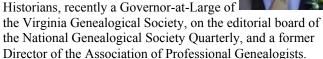
The Board saw opening the *DGS Newsletter* to anyone who visits our website as a way to further promote our activities and to grow our membership.

DGS Fall Lecture Military Records

Saturday, September 29, 2012 Craig Scott – Keynote Speaker

The Dallas Genealogical Society is proud to bring Craig Scott to Texas for a one-day workshop on Military Records on Saturday, September 29, 2012. Topics will include *Basic Military Research, Researching Your War of 1812 Ancestor, Pension Research: You Stopped Too Soon, and Researching Your Civil War Ancestor.*

Craig Scott, CGsm, is a professional genealogist and has been a historical researcher for more than twenty-four years. He specializes in the records of the National Archives, especially those that relate to the military. He was the Clan Scott Genealogist (1985 - 2000). He is a member of the Company of Military



Craig is the author of *The 'Lost Pensions': Settled Accounts of the Act of 6 April 1838* and *Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury, Inventory 14 (Revised)*. He has co-authored several books relating to records in Northern Virginia. He has authored articles in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* and *Family Chronicle* and many other genealogical publications. He is the President and CEO of Heritage Books, Inc., a genealogical publishing firm with over 3,000 titles in print located in Westminster, Maryland. A faculty member for several years of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, Samford University, he was the coordinator of the 2007 Advanced Military Records Course about the French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812.

Visit <u>www.dallasgenealogy.org</u> for additional information about Craig, topic descriptions, and registration details.

DEED OF TRUST LAW & LEGAL DEFINITION

A deed of trust is a document which pledges real property to secure a loan, used instead of a mortgage in certain states. A deed of trust involves a third party called a trustee, usually a title insurance company or escrow company, who acts on behalf of the lender. When you sign a deed of trust, you in effect are giving a trustee title (ownership) of the property, but you hold the rights and privileges to use and live in or on the property. The trustee holds the original deed for the property until you repay the loan. When the loan is fully paid, the trustor requests the trustee to return the title by reconveyance. If the loan becomes delinquent the beneficiary can file a notice of default and, if the loan is not brought current, can demand that the trustee begin foreclosure on the property so that the beneficiary may either be paid or obtain title. Unlike a mortgage, a deed of trust also gives the trustee the right to foreclose on your property without taking you to court

Source: http://definitions.uslegal.com/v/vendors-lien/

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Welcome Members

The DGS had so many new members and members who rejoined after time away that we only have room for their names this time. Check the Member Directory for their SIG interests, surnames, and localities by logging into your account on the DGS website under Membership/Account Manager.

NEW MEMBERS

Kristin Cantrell Catherine (Kitty) Cooper Wilson

Sheila T. James James Alan Wilson Pearl B. Kapuscinski Tamara Wren

Mark and Judy K. Milner

RETURNING MEMBERS

Jo A. Davis Catherine Johnson

Joel Edmondson John Lusk
George Field Chuck Snakard
Robert C. Francis David R. Snodgrass
Richard D. James Sandra Wilkinson

We encourage these and all members to add their surnames to the DGS Surname Registry on our website at

http://www.dallasgenealogy.org/index.php? option=com_content&view=article&id=247&Itemid=191

Special Interest Groups*

Technology - 1st Thursday of each month; 6:30 p.m.

The Technology SIG will not meet in July or August. Meetings resume on September 6, 2012.

Brown Bag - 1st Thursday of each month; 5:00 p.m.

Jewish - 3rd Tuesday of each month, except December; 10:00 a.m.

Focus is on Jewish citations and translations.

MAC Gen - 2nd Saturday of even numbered months, except December)

August 11, 2012—1:00 p.m. - "Reunion 10 Upgrade Part II"

* Dates and times subject to change . Visit <u>www.dallasgenealogy.org</u> to learn more about Special Interest Groups.

DGS Announces Writing Contest With Cash Awards to Winners

The Dallas Genealogical Society is sponsoring the DGS Writing Competition 2012 for original material submitted by members and non-members, hobbyists, and professionals. Entries may not have been published previously. Submissions must be sourced as outlined in *Evidence Explained* by Elizabeth Shown Mills.

While DGS has a goal of preserving Dallas history, subject matter for the competition may range beyond that geographic area as specified in the Rules and Guidelines, which are available on the DGS website at http://www.dallasgenealogy.org/DGS Docs/Events/Writing Contest/WritingContestRules.pdf. The Rules and Guidelines also provide required article formatting.

Entries will be accepted June 1 through September 30, 2012, with winners announced at the DGS Annual Luncheon in December.

Entries will be judged on three criteria:

- Accuracy, 0-15 points
- Clarity/writing mechanics, 0-20 points
- Overall impact and interest, 0-15 points

Winners must score at least 25 out of 50 points to win a prize. Highest average point value determines winners. Judges have final say as to winners, and all prizes may not be awarded.

Judges' comments will be returned to the submitters upon request.

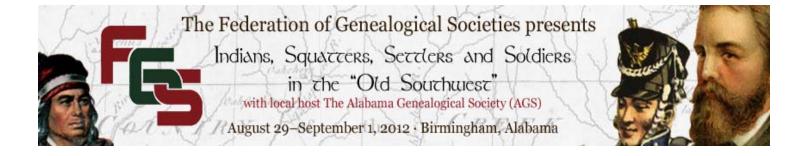
Awards:

First: \$500Second: \$300Third: \$150

This is an opportunity to preserve your family history and to achieve recognition for your work. The only way you'll ever see your families in a DGS publication is if you send an article!

Send entries via email only, with "DGS Writing Competition" in the subject line to: editorial@dallasgenealogy.com

Marianne Szabo, Director of Publication Content



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Reconstructing a World War II Era Army Service Record

Carl Oehmann

If you have an ancestor who served in the Army during World War II, you may be interested in what your ancestor did during their time in the military. Perhaps your ancestor passed away before you were able to personally do an interview. Or you may only have a few artifacts that your ancestor left behind and you might only remember a story or two about what they did in the Army. So what do you do next?

You may remember being told once that you can obtain personnel records from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri. So you find their website, download the request form and mail it in. In about four or five weeks you receive a letter in the mail informing you that the records of your ancestor were destroyed in the fire that occurred in 1972. Unless your ancestor separated from the Army after 1956, this is probably the outcome of your research.

So does this mean that your search is over? No; in fact your search has just begun. Thanks to documents known as Unit Rosters and Morning Reports you have a decent chance of reconstructing your ancestor's military life. But you will need some clues from those artifacts or stories mentioned earlier. The key is to determine at least one unit your ancestor served in; there may have been several.

This is where the artifacts come in. If your ancestor left pictures, those are potentially valuable especially if they are dated. The pictures may show an army uniform with rank insignia and badges that might identify a unit. On the uniform lapel you may see a badge that represents a branch of the Army. Examples might be Engineers, Cavalry, Infantry, Artillery. Army Badges and Insignia of World War II by Guido Rosignoli, available at the Dallas Public Library, may be helpful in identifying badges and insignia on your ancestor's uniform. However, the badges and insignias that you see will not always identify a specific unit unless you are lucky. Some units had distinctive unit insignia pins that could be worn on the lapel.

There are numerous military forums and websites that can help you identify badges and insignias which are too numerous to mention in this article but a Google search will reveal several. If your ancestor was an officer, you may find him listed in *The Official Army Register* which was published yearly. Some copies can be found on-line and the National Guard also published registers but they are very difficult to find.

Regardless of what information you have to start with, the first step should be the creation of a timeline. Using a spreadsheet, create columns for date, event, and research notes. Then begin entering information you have from each artifact you find. For example, an enlistment record from *Ancestry.com* may provide information concerning the place of enlistment, the date, the grade, the branch of service, and the component such as Regular or National Guard.

If you are not able to easily identify a unit in which your ancestor served, there still might be some clues that will at least narrow

the search. For example if you have a letter that identifies your ancestor at a specific military installation at a given time, you can then use your skills as a genealogist to research that particular location to determine what units were there. Be careful with sources such as wikis as they usually only identify major units and your ancestor may have been part of a much smaller organization.

Assuming you were able to identify a unit for your ancestor, the next step is to learn as much as you can about the unit. *World War II Order of Battle* by Shelby L. Stanton, available at the Dallas Public Library, will generally cover the history of the unit, when it was activated, where it was located during its operational life, and when it was deactivated if it no longer exists. See if there is a web page for the unit and check military forums also for information.

Next try and locate the Unit Roster for the time frame your ancestor was there. The Unit Rosters are available at the NPRC in St. Louis but those for 1944, 1945, and 1946 were disposed of in the 1970's. However, the Morning Reports are fairly intact. If you can find your ancestor on the Unit Roster, which is an end-of-month report, you simply go forwards and backwards until he drops off and then you know there was a transfer out/in or perhaps a death. You then look for the Morning Report for that unit to see the status of your ancestor (from which unit he came or to which unit he was transferred). The Morning Reports will also indicate temporary duty assignments while in the unit as well as promotions. By using these two types of reports it is possible to reconstruct your ancestor's military life without the use of the personnel file that was destroyed in the fire.

One last suggestion is to hire a researcher who has experience using the NPRC. There are many reasons for this. If you go yourself, you will need to attend a training session. There are limited research slots and you will typically need to reserve a specific day in order to do your research. The Unit Reports and Morning Reports are scattered across multiple microfilm reels.

So what you may at first think should only be a few hours of work can turn into literally days because of the delays in getting the reels you need from the archivist.

Now you can get started researching World War II era military records.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT - SQUADRON JUKEBOX

This website, which details the history of Marine Bombing Squadron 433's campaigns in the Solomons and the Phillipines in WWII, also features music that was popular during that era. It makes for good listening while doing your research! Thanks to H. David Arant of Dallas for bringing this website to our attention. To listen, go to: http://vmb433.com/music.htm. Late breaking news: Squadron Jukebox is now available only through Playlist.com and you will need to create an account.



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New Writer's Guidelines for DGS Newsletter—As part of the Publication Committee's efforts to enhance and broaden the subject matter published in the DGS Newsletter, new Writers' Guidelines have been posted on the DGS website. Of particular interest throughout this year are articles about the 1940 U.S. Census: finding aids, how-to articles using your own research, tips and workarounds, how the census was conducted, experiences as an indexer, or unique features of that census. In addition to this year long emphasis on the 1940 U.S. Census, each newsletter will have themes related to monthly meeting topics, and the Spring and Fall Lectures. These themes will be announced in advance of each issue. The theme of our next issue is: preserving your family's story through genealogy research at holiday celebrations and reunions. The Guidelines also describe six additional categories of subject matter where we encourage submissions: book reviews, favorite archives, tech tidbits, news of note, theme articles, beginning methodology, advanced methodology, case histories, and serendipity. Send questions about these guidelines to: editorial@dallasgenealogy.org.

DGS Special Events 2012

DGS does not meet in June, July and August—Next General Meeting is Saturday, September 8, 2012 First Floor Auditorium at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, Dallas, TX— "Meet & Greet" at 10:30 a.m.; Meeting begins at 11:00 a.m.

Friday and Saturday, July 13-14, 2012—DGS Summer Institute—J. Mark Lowe, CG and Lloyd Dewitt Bockstruck "Finding My Way Home: Methodology, Records and the Old South"

Saturday, September 29, 2012— DGS Fall Lecture "Military Records"—Craig Scott, CG

All group meetings will be at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library 1515 Young Street, Dallas, TX 75202

If you need to contact DGS, you can email the particular board member with whom you wish to communicate or you may send an email to info@dallasgenealogy.org or you may leave a voice mail at 1-866-YOU2DGS (1-866-968-2347)