

# DGS Newsletter



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OCTOBER—DECEMBER 2012

## 1940 U.S. Census Indexing Project Completed Ahead of Goal

On April 2, 2012, the 1940 U.S. Federal Census was released digitally to genealogists who were eager to continue researching their family history. The population totaled more than 132 million people at the time the census was taken. Initially, the only way to find an ancestor was to browse the census records based on knowledge of where that ancestor was living at the time the census was taken and hoping they were still in the area.



The goal seemed simple: create an index of names in the U.S. Census to make it easily searchable for researchers. The dilemma was how to do this in the best and quickest method possible.

Ancestry.com decided to hire people to index records for their site. FamilySearch joined forces with Archives.com, Findmypast.com and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to create a consortium that would use volunteers as part of “The 1940 U.S. Census Community Project” with a goal of indexing the entire census in six months—a daunting task at best.

Genealogists eager for access to the data stepped up in record numbers to volunteer. Thus the project was completed in 124 days—two full months ahead of schedule. Both Ancestry and FamilySearch made records available online as states were completed. FamilySearch required two people to index each record; the records were then compared. If the indexes were different, then they went to an arbitrator for final review before the records were published online. According to FamilySearch, it is “because of the familiarity of the volunteers with the names and places contained in the records, the resulting index is thought to be among the most accurate of any census ever published.”

*“Tens of millions of people will benefit for generations. That’s quite a legacy!”*

More than 160,000 volunteers participated. Genealogical and historical societies participated as groups; genealogists indexed as individuals. The Dallas Genealogical Society had 26 volunteers who signed on to index for DGS, although many others were indexing for the states in which they were researching! These 26 volunteers indexed over 60,000 names.

FamilySearch is continuing to complete the quality audit of the final states and publish them for online searching; however, the majority of the 1940 U.S. Census records are already searchable online at the sites of the consortium members.

FamilySearch hopes that this success encourages indexers to continue to other projects and new volunteers to join in. The new project is the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Community Project which starts with passenger lists from all of the major U.S. ports. For more information, visit <https://familysearch.org/us-immigration-naturalization>

Whether you have been a volunteer indexer for years, you helped index the 1940 U.S. Census, or you’re considering volunteering for the new project, consider that tens of millions of people will benefit from your work for generations. That’s quite a legacy!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Education Programs	26
Society Officers—2013	26
Pamela R. Holman Bequeaths \$5000 to DGS	26
DGS Annual Report October 2011 to September 2012	27
DGS Budget 2012-2013	29
Paula Stuart-Warren to be Keynote Speaker for DGS Spring Lecture—March 16, 2013	29
Twitter, Tweets, and DGS	30
Special Interest Groups	30
Learn Land Platting	30
Diligence Rewarded: Probate among the Deeds	31
Welcome Members	32
Have Fun with Genealogy during the Holidays	32
Military Museums and Libraries as Resources	33
Keep Your DGS Account Up-To-Date	34
1940 Census Reveals I Started Life in Jail!	34
DGS at TSGS State Conference	35
Wanted: Videos of Unique Family or Society Stories	35
DGS Calendar	36

**Dallas Genealogical Society**  
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Submit articles to  
[editorial@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:editorial@dallasgenealogy.org)  
See Guidelines on DGS website for additional details.

## Education Programs

### OCTOBER 6

This session includes a general introduction to using DNA testing for genealogy and where we are today. It covers Y-DNA for the direct paternal line, mitochondrial DNA for the direct maternal line, and autosomal DNA for the other ancestral lines. You will learn what DNA testing is and how to obtain the tests, how to use the test results to maximize the contribution to genealogical research goals, and which tests can be used for ethnic studies based on the current technology.

Presenter: Debbie Parker Wayne, CG, holds a Certified Genealogist<sup>sm</sup> credential. She is a full-time genealogist experienced using laws and DNA analysis, as well as more traditional techniques, for genealogical research. She previously worked in the computer industry doing support, training, programming, and Web design. Debbie is a Trustee for the BCG Education Fund, a board member and Advocacy Committee Chair of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), president of the Lone Star Chapter of APG, and the Texas State Genealogical Society's DNA Project Director. In 2008, before the recent popularity of genealogically related shows, Debbie worked on an episode of the Canadian series *Ancestors in the Attic*. This episode featured the descendants of a slave family in Smith County, Texas, who had migrated to Canada. In 2011, Debbie worked on an episode of the PBS series *Finding Your Roots* with Henry Louis Gates Jr. featuring a descendant of another East Texas slave family. This episode with Ruth Simmons, president of Brown University, was broadcast on 29 April 2012.

### NOVEMBER 10

Note: General Meeting moves to second Saturday in November to allow members to attend the Texas State Genealogical Society Annual Conference in Fort Worth with keynote speaker Curt Witcher. Additional details to be announced later.

### DECEMBER 8—ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

The Society will present its annual awards for Volunteer of the Year, Award of Merit, Historic Preservation Award, and the Lloyd Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award. We will also announce the winners of our writing competition.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

DGS sometimes gets requests for speakers on genealogy at local organizations. We have developed presentations that can be given as is. If you are interested in becoming involved in the society and giving back by speaking, let a board member know.

## Pamela R. Holman Bequeaths \$5000 to DGS

The Dallas Genealogical Society has received a bequest of \$5,000 from the Estate of Pamela R. Holman. Pam was an avid genealogist who focused on Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia, and who enjoyed spending time at the Dallas Public Library. The DGS Board is considering uses for this bequest.



Society Officers—2013	
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<i>The Dallas Journal</i> Editor	Vacant
<i>DGS Newsletter</i> Editor	Vacant
Library Liaison	Sharon Martin
Hospitality	Robert and Linda Lane

The *DGS Newsletter* is published periodically. All articles and correspondence for the *DGS Newsletter* should be sent to the attention of the Director of Publications Content at [editorial@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:editorial@dallasgenealogy.org). Articles appearing in the *DGS Newsletter* may be reprinted only upon receipt of written permission from the author. Credit should be given to the author and acknowledgement given the *DGS Newsletter* as the source. Letters requesting reprint permission should be sent to the newsletter editor at [editorial@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:editorial@dallasgenealogy.org).

*Neverending Story*

# Dallas Genealogical Society

## Annual Report

### October 2011 to September 2012



This annual report covers from October 2011 to September 2012. This Board assumed responsibility at the Board turnover meeting on September 10, 2011, and continued through September 8, 2012.

## Activities

The overall mission of the Dallas Genealogical Society consists of three aims which guide all activities, education, support and preservation. These are further described below with related accomplishments:

**1. To educate, by creating, fostering, and maintaining interest in genealogy.** In this regard DGS promoted the following activities in 2011/2012:

- ◆ General Membership Meetings—Free to the public, these meetings were held monthly except for the summer months, and included a brief business meeting followed by a local speaker presenting topics of interest to local genealogists. Topics for 2011/2012 were diverse:
  1. October 2011 "Oakland Cemetery" by Barbara Ware
  2. November 2011 "The War of 1812" by Lloyd Bockstruck
  3. January 2012 "Preparing for the 1940 Census" by Meg Hacker
  4. February 2012 "Research Planning" by Janet Branstetter
  5. March 2012 "RootsTech Conference Report" by Tony Hanson and Kathleen Murray
  6. April 2012 "Researching the *Dallas Morning News Archives*" by Brian Collins
  7. May 2012 "Proven Research Strategies" by Lynell Moss
  8. September 2012 "African American Research" by Pam Moore
- ◆ DGS continues to publish in print and online on our website. The quarterly *Newsletter* features articles and news of interest to our members. News of current interest is distributed to our members by email with our weekly *E-blasts*. The *Dallas Journal*, our annual publication of a more scholarly nature, contains articles of specific interest to those researching Dallas County genealogy and history.

- ◆ The Society continued to sponsor several Special Interest Groups within the organization for those who want to meet regularly and work with other genealogists on specific topics. These are free and open to the public. Our active SIGs for 2011/2012 included African-American, Brown Bag Advanced Genealogists, Technology, Jewish, and MacGen Reunion.
- ◆ The DGS website has greatly expanded its content in 2011/2012 under the direction of the DGS Webmaster, Tony Hanson.
- ◆ DGS maintains a *Facebook* page and has adopted pages on Dallas, Dallas County, Texas and on the Dallas Genealogical Society in the *FamilySearch Wiki*.
- ◆ The annual DGS-sponsored trip to Salt Lake City took place in October 2011 with eleven participants.
- ◆ Other DGS activities usually classified as "fund-raising" are also basically educational. In 2011/2012 these included the following:
  1. "Exploring Connections" lectures by D. Joshua Taylor, March 24, 2012 (148 attendees)
  2. "Finding My Way Home: Methodology, Records and the Old South" with J. Mark Lowe and Lloyd Bockstruck, July 13-14, 2012 (100 attendees)
  3. "Military Research" with Craig R. Scott will take place on September 29, 2012
- ◆ Of note in 2011/12 were a number of programs given to groups outside DGS. Typically discussing the basics of getting started in genealogy, programs were given to the Richardson Women's Club, Martin Luther King, Jr. Senior Center, C. C. Young Retirement Center, Genealogy Friends of the Plano Library, and Monticello West Assisted Living.
- ◆ An effort was made to leverage interest in the *Who Do You Think You Are?* television program. Times were set after DGS general meetings to discuss the most recent program. In addition, a series of three Beginner's Classes were developed. Total attendees were 43.

## 2. To assist and support the Genealogy Section of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas, Texas

Since 1955 DGS has supported the nationally-recognized collection of the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library. Often a portion of the profits from the Society's annual fund-

raising events are set aside and used for collection building in the Genealogy Section. The amount set aside depends upon the net income which is usually determined at the end of outgoing Board term and the amount is administered by the incoming Board. No funds for the section were allocated in 2011/12. The Board will consider doing so at the September 2012 turnover meeting.

DGS also encourages our members individually to donate money through us to the Genealogy Department either in honor of an ancestor or friend or as an annual donation when they renew their membership. 2011/12 was unique in that DGS received two bequests from former members. A \$5,000 bequest was received from the Estate of Pamela R. Holman and a \$40,500 bequest was received from the Estate of C. Maxine Morrison. Uses for these gifts are being considered by the Board.

### **3. To collect, preserve and index information related to Dallas County and its early history**

The DGS *Dallas Journal* is the publishing venue for information related to Dallas County. Volume LVII (October 2011) of the Journal included articles and listings on Founding Fathers and Mothers of East Dallas Christian Church, Business and Professional Women's Club of Dallas, Inc. Roster 1973-1974, Obituaries with Dallas Area Connections, Births and Deaths at Eagle Ford, Texas, and Crozier Technical High School P.T.A. Executive Board Hospitality Book.

The Oakland Cemetery transcription project continues to make progress toward completion. Sections 4, 14, 15 and 44 along with Pires Circle were published in *The Dallas Journal 2011*. Current volunteers working on this project are Carol Ruska, Suzan Younger and Barbara Ware.

The Dallas Genealogical Society *The Dallas Journals* from 1995 thru 2010 have been scanned on the Portal of Texas History with the assistance of UNT.

In summary, judging by the range of our activities which are driven by our mission statement, the DGS Board of 2011/12 has been successful in achieving its goals.

### **Finances**

Nathan White's Treasurer's Report dated 15 August 2012 shows that the financial status of the society remains strong: "As of July 31, 2012 the Society remains well funded with a balance of \$61,964 in its checking account and one CD in the amount of \$95,013. Total cash balances ended the period with \$156,977." This balance compares favorably with that of previous years although income from membership dues and fundraising events has been steadily declining since 2005. In contrast profits from sales of DGS items at events were much higher than normal as there was no competition from other vendors due to a reduction in available space at the library.

Income for the 2011/12 period exceeded expenditure and in general DGS remained within its budget limits. In summary, the

financial situation of DGS is generally good, especially considering the national recession and contracting economy.

### **Administration**

One of the most important problems facing the DGS Board in 2011/12 has been the continuing reduced library staff, library hours, and facilities caused from budget cuts by the Dallas City Council since 2009. DGS activities have become more difficult to arrange and some, like the Lock-ins, have had to be eliminated.

Another problem which DGS shares with other genealogical societies is that of steadily diminishing membership. The emphasis of genealogical research has shifted from libraries and genealogical societies to the Internet and online resources. Traditional genealogical societies have had a difficult time competing with companies providing extensive online resources. Also many potential DGS members are deterred by the long drive to downtown Dallas from their homes in surrounding areas.

A related problem is the difficulty DGS faces in recruiting qualified and dedicated volunteers to take positions of responsibility on the Board or even to offer a helping hand at DGS-sponsored activities. In the 2011/12 period the newsletter editor's position has remained unfilled while a committee has edited and published the newsletter. Earlier this year a Publication Committee was formed to organize the published content for DGS. Members Janet Khashab, Sandra Crowley and Marianne Szabo have seen to the return of the Newsletter's publication on a regular basis, the uniform appearance of the eBlasts and will review the contents of the *Dallas Journal*. The duty of organizing and leading the Salt Lake City trip was accepted by Jean Larson, Director of Education. When the position of Publicity Director could not be filled, the duties of this office were assumed by Pat Stone, including writing the weekly eBlasts. Robert and Linda Lane stepped up and took over the hospitality duties at DGS events. They've really enjoyed the position and have added home-baked goodies to most every function.

A Bylaws Committee was formed in 2011 with Jean Larson (chair), Sandra Crowley and Nathan White as members. All three members have had extensive experience with applying regulations and with various genealogical societies. The new Bylaws were distributed by mail to every DGS member by October 2011 and posted on the DGS website. They were approved at the November General Meeting and resulted in a new DGS management structure. An Executive Committee of the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary is fully supported by input from Directors of Education, Publicity, Membership, Publication Content, Printing and Distribution and Volunteer Coordination. This is the new Board.

DGS is also fortunate to have outstanding support from its Webmaster Tony Hanson, IT Administrator Barbara Ware, Mail Administrator Elizabeth Thurmond and Sales Manager Jimmy

Stone. During 2011 the DGS web site was awarded First Place in the Texas State Genealogical Society's Partner Society Website Design competition. Both go beyond the call of duty to anticipate and address problems, develop new content, and determine new ways to communicate with the membership and web users everywhere.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the very successful Board of 2011/12 for their hard work and can-do attitude. It has been my honor to work with them for the benefit of the Dallas Genealogical Society.

*Submitted by David Temple, DGS President*

## Dallas Genealogical Society Budget 2012-2013 \*

### INCOME

Contributions	200
Transfer from Permanent Fund	2,410
Dues	12,600
Investment	600
Safeway/Tom Thumb	600
Education	900
Fundraising Events	25,440
Hospitality	200
Other (Sales/Publications/Mdse)	1,200
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>44,150</u></b>

### EXPENSES

Awards Luncheon	1,200
DGS Operations	4,130
Insurance (D&O)	1,000
Hospitality (non-revenue events)	200
Mailing	1,400
Publicity	500
Treasurer (credit card and bank)	2,500
Education	1,500
Publications	12,320
Membership Development	1,500
Fundraising Events	17,850
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>44,150</u></b>

## Paula Stuart-Warren to be Keynote Speaker for DGS Spring Lecture— March 16, 2013

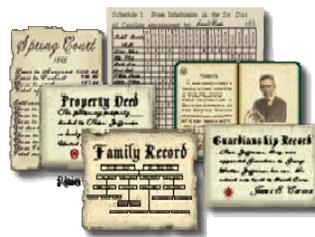
Mark your calendar for the DGS Spring Lecture on Saturday, March 16, 2013. Our keynote speaker is professional genealogist Paula Stuart-Warren. Paula works full time in the area of genealogical and historical research, lecturing, consulting, and writing. She has been a Board-certified genealogist since 1988, passing the every-five-year renewal assessments by the national Board for Certification of Genealogists. She is a firm believer in continuing education in genealogy and strives to keep up-to-date by participating in national and local conferences, reading the publications of many genealogical and historical organizations and individuals, both off and online. She completed the week-long U.S. National Institute of Genealogical Research held at the National Archives in Washington, D. C.



Paula has served two years as a national officer of the Association of Professional Genealogists; six years as a board member of the Minnesota Genealogical Society; and on the Program Committees for the National Genealogical Society (NGS), Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) conferences, and currently serves on the FGS Board of Directors and Conference Planning Committee. She is currently co-chair of the FGS 2013 Conference to be held in Fort Wayne Indiana. She has lectured at NGS and FGS national level conferences since the early 1990s.

She has written for *Ancestry Magazine*, *FGS Forum*, *NGS Magazine*, *New England Ancestors*, *Minnesota Genealogist*, and is editor of FGS Conference News Blog and *Paulas Genealogical Eclectica*. Her articles and lectures focus on unusual resources, manuscripts, methodology, analyzing records, Midwest, and Native Americans.

Her presentations are lively, yet professional and educational. Since 1997 she has been a Course Coordinator for the annual Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy's American Genealogy Records and Resources week-long intermediate course, which includes classroom instruction and one-on-one assistance in the Family History Library. She has coordinated courses and taught at other multi-date institutes.



Topics and registration information will be available at [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org) in November.

\* For additional budget details, visit our website at [http://www.dallasgenealogy.org/DGS\\_Docs/Society\\_Documents/Proposed\\_Budget\\_2112\\_2013.pdf](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org/DGS_Docs/Society_Documents/Proposed_Budget_2112_2013.pdf)

## Twitter, Tweets, and DGS

### WHAT IS THIS AND WHY SHOULD YOU AND I CARE?

[Twitter](#) is an online social networking service similar to Facebook, Google+ and others.

I was drawn first to Facebook where I re-connected with high school and college classmates and began to follow the interests and activities of younger family members scattered across the country.



Then I discovered that Twitter can be a particularly helpful way to find news about specific topics such as genealogy and family history. Simply create a Twitter account and choose to “Follow” well-known people in the field (Dick Eastman, Dear Myrtle, National Archives, FamilySearch, Archives.com, etc.)

To get started, see the instructional video about Twitter that DGS Webmaster Tony Hanson created and posted to the Technology SIG page on the DGS website: [http://www.dallasgenealogy.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=139&Itemid=72](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=139&Itemid=72).

Click on Twitter in the menu on the left side.

Don't want to set up a Twitter account? There also is a link on the Dallas Genealogical Society home page, [dallasgenealogy.org](http://dallasgenealogy.org) that's an easy way for any visitor to follow general genealogy news about upcoming conferences, new web sites, free resources, links to training videos, search tips and tricks, contests and prizes, etc. You don't need a Twitter account; just watch the scrolling DallasGenSoc newsfeed in the left-hand column or click on the “Follow@DGSx” link for a complete list of the Twitter news feeds.

A few DGS members are following about 75 Twitter genealogy-related experts and re-posting their news items to the DGS home page. If you would like to contribute, please let us know.

Carolyn Davis, DGS Director of Publicity

Genealogy  
✓ Rocks!

## Special Interest Groups\*

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

**Oct. 4, 2012 – 6:30 p.m.** - “*DGS Document Indexing and Scanning Project*” - Learn how you can be a part of this DGS indexing and scanning effort.

**Nov. 1, 2012** - Note that the **November Technology SIG meeting has been cancelled** because of the Texas State Genealogical Society annual meeting in Fort Worth. We hope you'll join us at the “Best of the Southwest Expo” at The Riley Center in Fort Worth from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Admission is free.

**Dec 6, 2012—6:30 p.m.—“Flickr”** - Learn how you can use this free resource to publish and share pictures and other images.

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

**October 4—“Learn Land Platting” - Part 1** with Bill Dow—Take part in a 2-part webinar on land platting using the software program “Metes & Bounds” by SandyKnoll.com. This program is available for all computers (Mac & PC), and all tablets and phones (iPad, iPhone, Android). Watch your weekly DGS *eBlast* for details or see shaded box below.

**December 6—“Learn Land Platting” - Part 2** with Bill Dow

### 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; 1:00 p.m.—McDermott Room, 8th floor

**October 13— Reunion 10.0.3**—Continue to explore the new version of Reunion. Discuss some of the issues and how to make the best use of the new features.

\* Dates and times subject to change . Visit [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org) to learn more about Special Interest Groups.

### LEARN LAND PLATTING IN OCT. AND DEC.

The Brown Bag SIG of DGS is excited to do a webinar on land platting using the software program “Metes & Bounds” by SandyKnoll.com.

Our presenter will be William B. Dow, Jr., a genealogist with over 25 years experience in the field. He is a former director of GENTECH and has lectured at many national, regional and local conferences on computers, digital imaging and genealogical methodology. Bill has been working with Metes and Bounds for several years, using investigative tools in platting family properties and correlating them.

Attend in person in the Hamon Room at the Dallas Public Library or participate online. Watch your weekly DGS *eBlast* for details.

## Diligence Rewarded: Probate among the Deeds

*Janet Branstetter*

You just never know what you will and won't find, do you? For many years, I've looked for probate records for my great-grandfather, John Robert Davis, who was born in Worcester, England, and came to the United States just before the Civil War. He has proven to be elusive, uncooperative, and clearly record-shy.

His daughter (my maternal grandmother), Annie Davis Tidwell, lived with us as I was growing up. She was a daddy's girl and talked about John Robert often. She loved him very much so I do too. Years later, I decided to find out just a little more about John Robert and wound up becoming a serious genealogist. I'm still chasing the bare facts about him—with limited success.

What I knew of John Robert from Annie was that on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January, 1887, John Robert married Rebecca Lemaster, a 29-year old spinster. Later that year, John Robert bought a farm near Pennington in Trinity County, Texas. Together, he and Rebecca had five children—George, Annie, Robert, Ben, and Mattie.

If you own property, you'll have probate, right? Since I'd visited John Robert's and Rebecca's graves and obtained death certificates, I knew their exact dates of death—his on 4 Jan 1919 and hers on 13 Mar 1933. I'd looked everywhere for John Robert's probate. No luck. Rebecca remained on the farm with her son Ben and his family until her death in 1933. After Rebecca's death, each of the children got a part of the farm. I knew from my grandmother that Mattie had died without heirs so the farm was divided among the four remaining children. Ben bought out his brothers in 1934 and 1963 so by the late 1960s only Annie and Ben still owned a piece of the farm. I checked probate records after John Robert's death, after Rebecca's death, and at the time of the division of the property. I found deeds for all those transactions but still no probate. The staff at the County Clerk's Office was very helpful, agreed there should be probate, and was just as dismayed as I that we couldn't find it. But we didn't.

Why keep looking? Because in both the 1900 and 1910 censuses, Rebecca indicated she was the mother of seven children with five living. So what about the other two children? They don't appear in the census, are too early for birth and death records, and were never mentioned by my grandmother Annie. But you can't just dismiss such a record without research. I wanted to find a list of John Robert's heirs.

I gave up on searching for probate, at least temporarily, and went on to other items for the Davis family on my To Do List. In a Pat Hatcher lecture that I attended years ago, Pat said you should always have the deeds when your family farm came into the family and when it left the family. I had all of the deeds generated by John Robert and Annie but I didn't have the deed when Ben sold the bulk of the farm out of the family. So, during a trip to Groveton, the county seat of Trinity County, my cousin Robert and I determined to locate all the remaining deeds

generated by my great-uncles George, Robert, and Ben, an effort in which we succeeded.

To our surprise, there in the deeds was a mini family history statement made by Ben a few weeks after that final sale.

“My name is J. B. Davis, commonly known as Ben Davis; I am 73 years of age; was born and raised in Trinity County, Texas, in the vicinity of the town of Pennington. I am a son of J. R. Davis and his wife, Rebecca Davis, both now deceased, the said J. R. Davis died January 20, 1918, and the said Rebecca Davis, died during the year 1939; both died intestate and no administration was had upon their estate; they were married only one time and that to each other; there were six children born to them, viz:

1. Willie Davis, who died about the age of 6 years;
2. Mattie who married Tom Smith, and died prior to the death of her parents, leaving no children;
3. H. G. Davis (known as George) who died about the year 1940, leaving the following as his heirs: His wife, Myrtle (who afterwards married Bill Parchman), and the following children: Homer Davis, Weaver Davis, Lavern Davis, and Lola Davis who married Chas. Dias.
4. Annie Davis, who married M. F. Tidwell, now a widow;
5. Robert Davis, and
6. J. B. (Ben) Davis, this affiant.

The said J. R. Davis and wife, Rebecca Davis owned 22-1/2 acres, 7-1/2 acres, and 16 45/100 acres of land out of the M. Montalba Survey, in Trinity County, Texas, being their home and upon which they resided and reared their family.”<sup>1</sup>

While the statement isn't completely accurate (both John Robert and Rebecca's dates of death are wrong), the information about the children matches what I knew about the family, except for Willie.

Willie?! I'd found Rebecca's sixth child! Willie died when he was about six (no year given) but Ben remembered him, so he made his way to the deed books. There's no additional information and no mention of a seventh child.

So far, I've found no additional information on Willie. Willie isn't buried with John Robert and Rebecca. He doesn't appear in the 1900 or 1910 census. Willie was born prior to birth records and neither the state nor county has a death record. I may never know any more about him but at least I now know six of the seven children Rebecca reported in the census. I suspect there was a seventh child, as Rebecca reported, but that child died at

<sup>1</sup>*Trinity County, Texas, Deeds, 174:558-560, Probate statement by J. B. Davis, 19 March 1966, Office of the County Clerk, Groveton.*

## 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

Rachel Caillouet	Trisha Hartwell	David Passman
Holly Carter	Susan Johnston	Tiffany Pugh
Joseph Cox	Betty King	Tommie Regan
Connie Crossley	Perry L. Lamy	Cynthia N. Slayton
Durrell Dallas	Julie Morris	Sharon K. Smith
Emily Emerick	Carol Myers	Karen J. Walker

### RETURNING MEMBERS

Gail Abbott  
Julie and R. T. Gustafson  
Gloria Hewett

### CHANGES

Lyria Sohrweide Johnson changed from individual to Household, added Eugene Johnson as an associate member

Brooks Snyder changed from individual to Household, added Susan Bigi as an associate member

### NEW LIFE MEMBER

Lana Filgo, long-time DGS member, has now become a Life Member

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

[http://www.dallascenealogy.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=247&Itemid=191](http://www.dallascenealogy.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=247&Itemid=191)

## Diligence Rewarded (continued)

such a young age that Ben just didn't know or remember. I may never know either.

You could say that I finally found John Robert's "probate records"—created almost fifty years after his death, and entered, not in the Probate Books, but in the Deed Books. You never know what you may find and where. Who'd expect a mini-family history in a modern deed book? But I found mine and you may find one as well—or something even better. Keep looking and look everywhere.

And, your reward for such diligence? Another uncooperative family member to research!

*Janet has been engaged in genealogical research for more than 10 years. She is a member of several genealogical organizations, and is a multi-year alumna of the Samford University Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR). Janet is a graduate of Texas Woman's University with a Master of Library Science degree.*

## Have Fun with Genealogy during the Holidays

The holidays can be a busy time of year with minimal spare time for things like genealogy research. But you can keep your family history momentum going during the holidays and maybe even get some of your friends and family members started with family history by doing quick and easy genealogy activities. Here are some ideas:

Print out multiple blank pedigree or family tree charts and have a competition at a family party to see who can fill in the most information.

Put photo albums or old pictures on display for family members coming over for the holiday season. Learn a few stories that go along with the photos or the people in them to share with your family.

If you have unlabeled family pictures, pull them out and provide archival pens and pencils for your family to help label them. Family members may have details about photos that you don't remember.

Create an ancestor trivia game.

Take a few minutes to talk to a family member about his or her personal history, and record your conversation.

Use the 12 days of Christmas or the 8 days of Hanukkah to choose an ancestor and find one piece of information about him or her for each day.

Document your holiday gatherings with photos and quick notes about important, interesting, or funny things that happened while you were together.

Buy a DNA kit for a family member, or bring some to your family gatherings to get the older generation's DNA samples.

Create a family history Christmas tree by decorating the tree with pictures of ancestors (be sure to label them). Take time with your family to go through the pictures on the tree, talking about each individual represented. This is a great way to get children and grandchildren involved with family history.

Record your family traditions, and include them in your family history book. You might even start a new tradition or resurrect an old one that has gradually faded away. Write about your experiences.

These are just a few of the things you can do to add fun and richness to your family history research and to get your friends and family involved during the holidays. Visit the FamilySearch Research Wiki today for more family history activities.

*Originally published in the Family Search Research Help Community Newsletter, December 12, 2011*

## Military Museums and Libraries as Resources

Military museums and libraries are a rich resource for background information on your ancestors' service. There are hundreds of such museums around the country. Here are a few that are particularly relevant now with the release of the 1940 Census.

### THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR, FREDRICKSBURG, TEXAS

Originally named The Admiral Nimitz Museum, The National Museum of the Pacific War is "dedicated to perpetuating the memory of the Pacific Theater of WWII in order that the sacrifices of those who contributed to our victory may never be forgotten."

It is named for Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who commanded more than two million service personnel, 5000 ships, and 20,000 planes at the height of the war in the Pacific. He was born February 24, 1885 in Fredricksburg, and was accepted to Annapolis in 1901 at age 15 before he graduated high school.



As overall commander of the Central Pacific area, Nimitz commanded all U.S. and Allied military forces in his theater bordered on the west by the Southwest Pacific area of General MacArthur's command. Nimitz led the "island hopping" amphibious drive toward Japan, from Guadalcanal, to Tarawa, Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Pelelui, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

He died at his home on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay on February 20, 1966.

Located 70 miles from San Antonio and 75 miles from Austin, in addition to having more than 50,000 square feet of indoor exhibit space, outdoors the museum displays Allied and Japanese aircraft, tanks, guns and other large artifacts made famous during the Pacific War campaigns.

It is the only institution in the continental United States dedicated exclusively to telling the story of the Pacific Theater battles of World War II.

The museum also hosts re-enactments and symposia, brings in outside speakers, shows documentaries of the war, and holds observances on major military holidays. There also is a museum store.

For more information go to: <http://www.pacificwarmuseum.org/Index.asp>

### THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Located in downtown New Orleans, the museum opened in 2000 and houses more than 100,000 artifacts. While many items in the

collection — including but not limited to Allied and Axis uniforms, weaponry, vehicles, medals, diaries, letters, artwork, photographs and other mementos — are on exhibit, the majority are kept safely in storage to be used for research and future exhibitions, or are being restored to their original condition. There is limited public access to the non-circulating collection for research and there is no online access at this time.

There also is a large collection of memoirs of wartime experiences, as well as oral histories from veterans of all branches and who served on all fronts. Some of these oral histories are featured on the museum's website. Actor Tom Hanks, who helped raise funds for the museum and its recent expansion, narrates *Beyond All Boundaries*, a documentary film in the museum's Victory Theater.

Upcoming special exhibits include:

*Guests of the Third Reich - American POWs in Europe*, Nov 11, 2012 – Jan 13, 2013.

*Gridiron Glory: The Best of the Pro Football Hall of Fame*, Jan 26, 2013—May 5, 2013

For more information, to go <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/>

### PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Across the street from Millennium Park and the Art Institute of Chicago, the Pritzker Military Library is open to the public with live events and a collection of books, films, and gallery exhibits that tell the story of the Citizen Soldier in American military history from the Revolution to today.

Founder of the library, Colonel (IL) J.N. Pritzker, IL ARNG (Retired), assembled a major collection of books and related materials on military history that formed the beginning of the library. Now the non-partisan research library aims to increase public understanding of military history and the sacrifices made by the men and women who have served.

It houses over 36,000 books, as well as magazines, art prints, and audiovisual materials. There is an online catalog, which can be accessed after a free registration. Many books are available through interlibrary loan.

For more information, go to: <http://pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/home/default.aspx>

### MUSEUM & MEMORIAL GUIDE

To locate a military-themed museum, monument or memorial as you travel around the United States, visit [www.military.com/Resources/RecourcesSubmittedFileVie?file=museums\\_museum-guide.htm](http://www.military.com/Resources/RecourcesSubmittedFileVie?file=museums_museum-guide.htm)

Marianne Szabo, Director of Publication Content

## Keep Your DGS Account Up-To-Date

It's easy to keep your membership and subscription information up-to-date online to insure that you will continue to receive news about upcoming events and DGS activities.

### DGS MEMBERS

1. Go to the DGS website: [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org)
2. Select **Membership** from the top menu bar.
3. Select **Account Manager** from the side menu bar on the Membership page
4. On the Account Manager page, login to your account with your Login Name and Password
  - ◆ If you don't remember your Login Name or Password, click on "Get help" and enter your e-mail address. If that doesn't work, contact administrator@dallasgenealogy.org.
5. Select **Update My Profile** from the "What would you like to do?" drop down menu.
6. On your profile page you may change your address, e-mail address, phone number(s), membership subscriptions, communications options (request for printed publications and turn off eBlasts), research names and localities.

If you have a Household membership (\$40), you may list the name of the associate member.

### NON-DGS MEMBERS (WHO ARE ACCOUNT HOLDERS\*)

1. Go to the DGS website: [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org)
2. Select **Membership** from the top menu bar.
3. Select **Account Manager** from the side menu bar on the Membership page
4. On the Account Manager page, login to your account with your Login Name and Password
  - ◆ If you don't remember your Login Name or Password, click on "Get help" and enter your e-mail address. If that doesn't work, contact administrator@dallasgenealogy.org.
5. Select **Update My Profile** from the "What would you like to do?" drop down menu.
6. On your profile page you may change your address, e-mail address, and phone number(s).

\*Individuals who have accounts for event registration or online store purchases.

## 1940 Census Reveals I Started Life in Jail!

The family joke was that I spent the first six months of my life "in jail," a statement that turned out to be true, but not as lurid as it might sound.

My parents, William I. and Edna Schomp Davis, were jail warden and matron of the Hunterdon County Jail in Flemington, New Jersey, for several years in the late 1930s to early 1940s, and family stories said they lived "near the jail."

The 1940 Census revealed they were more than "near" the jail.

I grew up around Flemington and knew the old county jail was on Main Street. I used the National Archives web site to determine the correct ED for Main Street. It was then fairly easy to browse the census record to find the 3 lines enumerating my father, mother and older sister (recorded as 1/12 years old).

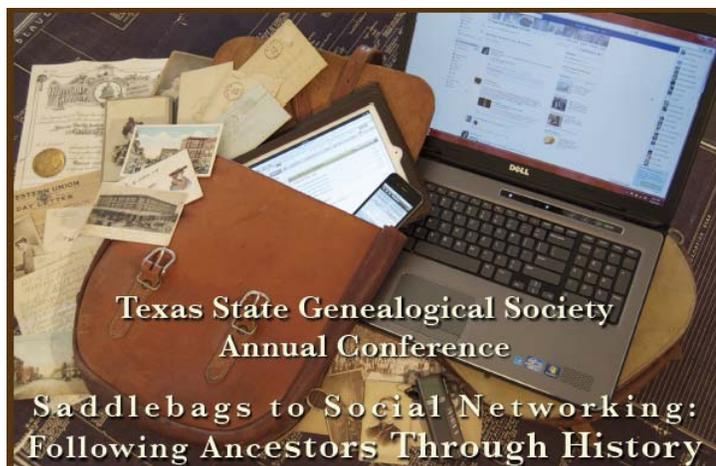
The best part followed - the line immediately below my infant sister's name reads "Here Begins Hunterdon County Jail." Five inmates are enumerated before the ending line "Here Ends Hunterdon County Jail." I wonder what these five men were in jail for on those particular days—April 11-12, 1940.

Column 2 of the Census form (House Number) reveals the same street address for both my parents and the 5 inmates—75 Main Street. It is very probable that they lived in an apartment provided by the county. Their annual salaries were meager—\$1200 and \$540.

My father continued as jail warden until a few months after I was born in 1943, when he resigned his position to return to farming with his father to support the war effort. Thus I can claim that I spent the first few months of my life in jail.

*Carolyn Davis, DGS Director of Publicity*





## DGS at TSGS State Conference— Nov. 1-3 in Fort Worth

Texas State Genealogical Society brings its Annual Conference to Fort Worth this year on November 1-3; the theme is *Saddlebags to Social Networking: Following Ancestors Through History*. Curt Witcher, Manager of the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, will be the featured speaker. For more information about the conference, visit [www.txsgs.org](http://www.txsgs.org)

DGS will be well-represented at this year's TSGS Conference.

### DGS MEMBERS AS SPEAKERS

DGS members, including Kathleen Murray, Jean Larson, and Carolyn Davis, will be presenting a "Getting Started" track on Friday and Saturday targeted at individuals new to genealogy or those wanting a refresher course.

DGS Vice President Sandra Crowley is coordinating a Society Track aimed at society leaders and those interested in promoting and growing their organizations; she will lead a Partner Society sharing session during lunch on Thursday to encourage societies from around the state to come together and share ideas and concerns.

Tony Hanson, DGS Webmaster, is sharing information about the DGS Indexing and Document Management project to show other societies how they can extend their valuable information to members outside their local area.

Janet Khashab, Immediate Past President of DGS, will present a session on Hispanic Research as part of the TSGS Ethnic Research Track on Friday.

### DGS—SILVER SPONSOR

DGS will have a table in a prime location in the Exhibit area of the conference as a Silver Sponsor. Other benefits included in this level of sponsorship include recognition on the TSGS web site, free advertising in the syllabus and a conference registration for one individual (to be awarded as a door prize at the DGS Fall

Lecture on September 29, 2012). Volunteers are needed to help staff the table during exhibit hours.

### VOLUNTEERING AT TSGS

Texas State Genealogical Society (TSGS) is seeking volunteers for the upcoming TSGS meeting in Fort Worth, November 1-3, 2012. If you are a DGS member and are interested in volunteering for registration, hospitality, set up, exhibitor aide, door prize aide, room monitor, speaker introduction, general runner, or have no preference, please contact Terri O'Neill TSGS Volunteer Coordinator at [tbo45@mac.com](mailto:tbo45@mac.com).

**Family Treasures**  
new and old, they all have memories  
to be told. The hidden stories of yesteryear,  
of trinkets that we hold so dear. —



## WANTED: Videos of Unique Family or Society Stories

Have you made a video of your family history? Would you like to feature your society's accomplishments or projects? The TSGS 2012 Annual Conference will have a monitor where these videos will be shown on a rotating basis.

Members of Partner Societies may submit 5-10 minute videos telling your unique story of a family line or an ancestor. Societies may also want to submit a video describing a project or a field trip. The video can focus on an individual or group project.

This is a perfect opportunity to feature your society and your family research! The submission deadline is October 22, 2012.

Send your submissions on CD to Judy Knight, 1403 Crest Glen Drive, Arlington, TX 76002 or e-mail Judy at [jwk45@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jwk45@sbcglobal.net). If your file is too large for e-mailing, e-mail Judy for instructions on how to digitally transfer your file.



Dallas Genealogical Society  
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DALLAS, TX 75225-0446

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### DGS Special Events 2012-2013

DGS Annual Awards Luncheon  
Saturday, December 8, 2012  
J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, Dallas, TX  
11:30 a.m.—7th floor O'Hara Room

DGS General Meetings Resume on Saturday, January 5, 2013  
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.

### SAVE THE DATES FOR 2013 EVENTS

DGS Spring Lecture—Saturday, March 16, 2013  
DGS Summer Institute—Friday, Saturday—August 2-3, 2013  
DGS Fall Lecture—Saturday, October 12, 2013  
Details to be announced—Visit [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org) for more "breaking news"

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](mailto:info@dallasgenealogy.org) or you may leave a voice mail at 1-866-YOU2DGS (1-866-968-2347)