

# DGS Newsletter



VOLUME 40, NUMBER 2

APRIL-JUNE 2014

## John Philip Colletta to Speak at DGS Summer Symposium July 11-12, 2014

The Dallas Genealogical Society will host its two-day Summer Symposium Friday and Saturday, July 11-12, featuring John Philip Colletta, Ph.D., as our featured speaker.

The Symposium's theme will be *For Today's Generation and Tomorrow's: The Many Ways to Preserve Family History*. There has been much interest in the genealogy community lately about how best to preserve your family history, and these eight sessions will bring John's considerable talents and experience in that area to attendees:



- *Organizing Your Materials for a Genealogy or Family History: Fundamental Choices and Essential Considerations*
- *How Do You Know?: Documenting Your Multi-Generational Record*
- *Turning Biographical Facts into Real-Life Events: How to Build Historical Context*
- *Evidence from Material Culture: Using Artifacts in Researching and Writing about Ancestors*
- *Principles of Good Writing and Good Storytelling*
- *Using Original and Derivative Sources: Evaluating Evidence*
- *Publishing Your Genealogy or Family History: Choices and Essential Considerations*
- *Writing a Narrative Family History: The Pitfalls and Snares!*

John resides in Washington, D.C., where for twenty years he worked half-time at the Library of Congress and taught workshops at the National Archives, while laying the foundation for his career in genealogy. Today Dr. Colletta lectures nationally, teaches at local schools, and conducts programs for the Smithsonian Institution's Resident Associate Program. He is a faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University (Birmingham, AL), the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and Boston University's Certificate in Family History program.

He has also been an instructor and course coordinator for the National Institute on Genealogical Research (Washington, D.C.), the Genealogical Institute of Texas (Dallas), and the Genealogical Institute of Mid-America (Springfield, IL).

His publications include numerous articles, both scholarly and popular. He has written two manuals: *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival*

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## President's Column

Sandra Crowley

DGS has a number of events planned in 2014 to help us identify new sources for research and tools that make it easier to share our stories with our friends and family.

At RootsTech in Salt Lake City in February, there was a renewed emphasis on the importance of making sure the stories we have to tell are saved and passed down to future generations. Extended families often don't live in close proximity to each other as they did in previous years, so it is up to us to make sure the tales and memories we have are shared.

We began in March with Laura Prescott as speaker for our Spring Lecture. Laura shared some ideas about resources we may not have considered and how to put our ancestors into historical perspective.

This year's Summer Symposium brings John Philip Colletta, one of the most popular writers and lecturers in the genealogical community, back to Texas for two full days of lectures that range from ways to organize your family history to publishing your story with steps in between on records and methodology. We are also pleased to announce that the Dallas Public Library and DGS will offer extended research hours on Friday, July 11, as part of the Symposium. Stay a few hours after the Friday session for access to all the Genealogy Collections resources. DGS members and DPL staff will be on hand to help answer questions. You can immediately try some of the tips that you learn that day! (For details, see page 13 or visit our website at [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org).)

Our Fall Lecture will feature Judy Russell, *The Legal Genealogist*. The next few months will be filled with opportunities for learning and sharing.

To me, part of that sharing means helping to save records for future generations as well. One of the projects we have highlighted is the "Preserve the Pensions" project to ensure the digital preservation of the War of 1812 records. I don't know whether or not I have an ancestor who fought in this war; however, I do know how much I appreciate what past generations did to make similar records available to me on microfilm or in indexed form.

For that reason, I believe supporting this project is a way for me to "pay it forward." A \$25 donation is automatically matched by Ancestry.com, which turns it into a \$50 donation. For that amount of money, more than 200 records can be digitized. These records will be available for everyone on Fold3 – FREE – for future generations. I think it's a small price to pay to say "thank you."

Read more about the project on page 13 and join me in supporting the preservation of these important records .



### Society Officers—2013-2014

President <a href="mailto:president@dallasgenealogy.org">president@dallasgenealogy.org</a>	Sandra Crowley
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Mail Administrator	Vacant
Sales Manager <a href="mailto:sales@dallasgenealogy.org">sales@dallasgenealogy.org</a>	Jimmy Walters
Parliamentarian	Vacant
<i>Pegasus</i> Editor	Vacant
<i>DGS Newsletter</i> Editor	Vacant
Library Liaison	Gayla Bush
Hospitality	Robert and Linda Lane

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## Special Interest Groups\*

### **Technology—1st Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.**

#### **April 3—Understanding & Using Metadata**

**May 1**—Carolyn Davis will discuss Place My Past ([www.placemypast.com](http://www.placemypast.com)), a web site that combines mapping, social history, and social networking to provide a new way for family historians to tap into a wealth of personal and contextual information about their ancestors.

**June-August**—Summer Vacation

#### **September 4—Backing Up Your Data**

Visit [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org) for updates

The Tech SIG hopes to be able to allow remote web-based participation in its meetings for up to 25 participants who are not able to come to the library for each meeting. More information will be provided about this possibility before each meeting.

### **Brown Bag—4th Saturday of each month, 10:30 a.m.**

The discussion will continue on *Mastering Genealogical Proof Research*, by Thomas W. Jones, which may be purchased from the National Genealogical Society or Amazon.com; it is also available as an ebook.

**April 26**—Chapter 4—*GPS Element 2: Source Citations* (continued)

**May 24**—Chapter 5—*GPS Element 3: Analysis and Correlation*

**June 28**—Chapter 6—*GPS Element 4: Resolving Conflicts and Assembling Evidence*

### **Jewish—3rd Wednesday of each month, except December, 10:00 a.m.**

The Jewish SIG will continue to work on brick walls using the needed research skills—urban, traditional, religious, etc. Questions can be sent to [jewishgen@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:jewishgen@dallasgenealogy.org).

**April 16**—Meeting at the Dallas Public Library. Introducing the book *Genealogy Standards* (published January 2014) and Chapter 1, *The Genealogical Proof Standard*. Learn about two possible service projects. Bring your brick walls, etc. with you.

**May 21**—Possible visit to the Holocaust Museum

**June 18**—Meeting at the Dallas Public Library. Focus will be on the *Genealogy Standards* book, Chapter 2, *Standards for Documenting*. Bring any brick walls, etc. with you.

### **MacGen—2nd Saturday of even numbered months, except December**

**April 12**—Back to Basics. Starting from scratch and reviewing how to best use Reunion, from Beginners to Intermediate. Bring your questions and dilemmas.

**June 14**—Now let's get into the cool stuff with Reunion, including how to get the best out of reports (for publication or not) and making charts and wall charts.

### **AAGIG—3rd Saturday of each month, 2:00 p.m.**

African-American Genealogical Interest Group meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library.

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

## Education

Dallas Genealogical Society General Meetings are held the first Saturday of each month (except June, July, August). Hospitality and registration begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Dallas Rooms; meeting begins at 11:00 a.m. in the first floor auditorium. Upcoming meetings will feature the following topics:

**April 5**—*NARA Online Public Access*, by Meg Hacker, Director of Fort Worth Regional Archives

**May 3**—*Westward Ho, or "Go West Young Man" - Migration Routes of the U.S.*, by Judy Allen Knight

What prompted our ancestors to migrate? How and where did they travel? Find resources to help you travel the route your family took. Examine migration trails in Colonial America, beyond the Eastern Shores and the opening of the West.

**June-August**—No meetings

**September 6**—Don Raney, Topic to be announced

**October 4**—To be announced

**November 1**—*The Latest Techniques for FamilySearch.org*, by Lynell Moss

Meeting topics and speakers are subject to change so be sure to sign up to receive eBlasts via email or visit our website at [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org).

## National World War I Museum, Kansas City, Missouri

OPENED IN 2006, THIS MUSEUM BRINGS BACK TO LIFE WHAT SOME CONSIDER A FORGOTTEN WAR FOR AMERICANS.

It is divided into two sections: 1914-1917 before the United States entered the war, and 1917-1918 when it took an active role in the fighting. There are more than 75,000 items, not all of which are on view.

To enter the complex, you cross a recreated Western-front poppy field as immortalized in John McRae's poem, "In Flanders Fields." The poppies represent 1000 dead combatants. An introductory video outlines multiple causes for this so-called Great War, culminating in the assassination by a teenage Serbian national of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, which led to seven European nations being at war with one another in only a week.

There is an extensive timeline that leads you through things both large and small (a damaged Renault F-17 tank; an anecdote about author J.R.R. Tolkien taking part in the Battle of the Somme on July 14, 1916). New to the museum are Field Marshal Hindenburg's Model 1915 field jacket and cap and an imperial German U-boat model of the U-104, built in 1916. Interactive exhibits abound, including one where you can design your own war poster and email it home. You can also hear soldiers' letters home read aloud – soldiers from all the nations involved.

The evolution of aircraft from reconnaissance machines to fighters with two or three wings and swivel mounts for a second machine gunner is also traced. A replica of a British DeHavilland DH2 airplane hangs from the ceiling.

The museum is located at 100 W. 26<sup>th</sup> St., Kansas City, MO, 64108. 816-784-1918 Website: [www.theworldwar.org](http://www.theworldwar.org)



*2014 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of World War I. To commemorate this centenary, many new resources are coming online for researching ancestors who served in the war, particularly if you have ancestors from Britain, Canada, and the U.S. These are too numerous to mention here, but keep a sharp eye for announcements on the many genealogy blogs that are available.*

## Find A Grave Mobile App for iPhone and iPad is Now Available

Ancestry.com announced the release of a **FREE** Find A Grave app for iPhones and iPads. More than 100 million graves in half a million cemeteries around the world are now at your fingertips with the new mobile app.

Find and visit a loved one's final resting place anywhere, anytime. Request a headstone photo or snap one yourself and share it instantly. Honor your ancestors by creating memorials. All this and more with just a few taps.



### Features include the ability to:

- Access the largest online collection of burial information for free
- Locate grave sites of your loved ones through a simple search
- Search millions of photos; thousands more are added daily
- Request headstone photos from over 200,000 volunteers around the world

- Find cemeteries near you, fulfill photo request, post instantly
- Create memorials with bios and photos
- Share discoveries through Facebook, emails, text
- Get help from Find-A-Grave full-time support staff

You can learn more about the free Find A Grave Mobile App for iPhone and iPad in the Ancestry.com blog at <http://goo.gl/VWSbcF> and at <https://itunes.apple.com/app/id732952190?mt> or go to the Apple App Store by using your Apple mobile device.

A limited feature Android version has been available for a while; however, Ancestry.com is expected to release an updated version soon.

*Reprinted with permission from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*

## War of 1812 Pension Digitization Project

Because the Pension Records from the War of 1812 are among the most requested documents at the National Archives, these fragile documents are in urgent need of digitization. As these valuable historical documents are digitized, they will be made available to all at no cost, and the original pension files can be retired to much less active use.

Completed images and associated indexing are posted incrementally—when new records are ready, they are uploaded and accessible. Genealogists, historians, teachers, societies and history buffs all have access to the images that have been digitized right now. Images will be offered for free at Fold3 indefinitely.

In support of this monumental task of digitizing 7.2 million pages, Ancestry.com has stepped up and agreed to cover costs to digitize HALF of the War of 1812 pension records. So every



dollar donated will actually go twice as far. At a cost of \$0.45 per digitized page, your tax-deductible gift of \$45 would normally digitize 100 pages, but with matching funds from Ancestry.com it will digitize 200 pages. Every dollar you contribute will make four more pages accessible and free for everyone. Your contributions can be made in the name of your ancestor.

The Society of Preservation Patriots recognizes individuals or groups donating \$250 or more.

**DONATE NOW**

Donations are tax deductible.

Donate today—save a record!

For more information, visit [www.preservethepensions.org](http://www.preservethepensions.org)

## Colletta (continued)

*Record and Finding Italian Roots: The Complete Guide for Americans.* He also wrote one “murder-mystery-family-history” -- *Only a Few Bones: A True Account of the Rolling Fork Tragedy and Its Aftermath* --that tells the story of Colletta’s great great grandfather, Joe Ring, who moved his family from Buffalo, New York, to Rolling Fork, Mississippi, after the Civil War. When Joe Ring’s country store burned to the ground with five unfortunate victims sleeping upstairs, the incident was investigated as mass murder, robbery and arson.

Dr. Colletta appears frequently on podcasts and local and national radio and television. He is featured in Episode Four of *Ancestors*, the ten-part KBYU-TV series, as well as its sequel. He has received many professional honors, including fellowship in the Utah Genealogical Association and distinguished service awards from the Dallas Genealogical Society and the National Society, Daughters of Colonial Founders and Patriots.

The Teaching Company has just released Dr. Colletta’s 15-lesson course, *Discovering Your Roots: the Fundamentals of Genealogy*, as one of their *Great Courses* on DVD or CD with an accompanying manual.

He has been a speaker at DGS previously, and those who have heard him either in Dallas or elsewhere know he is a knowledgeable, experienced and entertaining speaker.

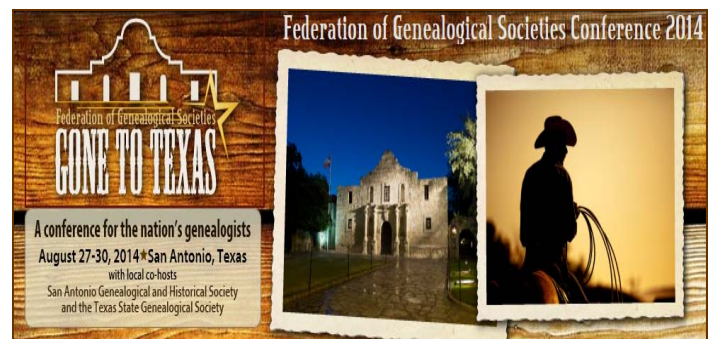
Visit [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org) for additional information about John, topic descriptions, and registration information.

## Extended Dallas Library Hours for Genealogy Research During Summer Symposium

Enjoy extended hours at the Dallas Public Library, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Genealogy Collection, on Friday, July 11, until 10:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

This is a FREE DGS event for registered Summer Symposium attendees; tickets are required and will be distributed when you check-in at the Symposium on Friday morning.

DGS members and library staff will be available to help you find resources and answer questions. For additional details, visit [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org).



For more information, visit  
[www.fgsconference.org](http://www.fgsconference.org)

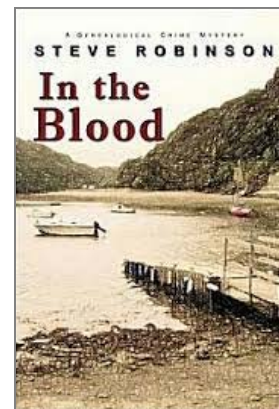
## Genealogy Mysteries of another Kind

Marianne Szabo, DGS Director of Publications Content

We all have mysteries in our family trees, but did you know that genealogy mysteries are a fiction genre as well?

Last Christmas I received *In the Blood* by Steve Robinson as a gift from a family member. Robinson, who lives in a small village near London, became interested in genealogy because he was looking for information on his maternal grandfather – an American GI stationed in England during World War II. He was able to trace him back to America to Arkansas, but knew little else about him.

He then thought that genealogy would be an interesting way to tell a fictional story of “a dark genealogical secret locked in the past.” *In the Blood* first appeared as an eBook, then in print. The eBook edition offers the advantage of easy correction and updating. When genealogy hobbyists pointed out an error in the author’s description of genealogical DNA testing, he was able to immediately correct the eBook version, but not the printed one. He has since published two other books, *To the Grave*, and *The Last Queen of England*.



I decided to see how many other books of this sort were available. An Internet search turned up dozens of titles, including the following:

*Bloodlines – Touch Not the Cat*, by Thomas McKerley

*Tainted Tree*, by Jacquelyn Luben

*Cankered Roots* by C. G. Vandagriff (and several other titles)

*Murders and Genealogy in Hennepin County* by Patrick Day

*The Secrets of Jackson Glen* by J. Richard Scott

*Where’s Merrill?* By Gearoid O’Neary

A number of these selections are only available as eBooks, while others are available in print as well.

Here are some sites that list more titles in this genre:

[www.cozy-mystery.com/blog/mystery-book-series-with-genealogy-theme.html](http://www.cozy-mystery.com/blog/mystery-book-series-with-genealogy-theme.html)

[genealogy.about.com/od/writing\\_family\\_history/tp/fiction\\_books.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/writing_family_history/tp/fiction_books.htm)

## Letter to the Editor

I am glad to see *Pegasus* as the publication name for the DGS Journal, as well as the historical information in the *Jan- Mar DGS Newsletter*.

*Pegasus* is special to me in several ways. I grew up in east Tarrant County. We made infrequent trips to Dallas.

When we reached east Irving, we could see the horse on the Magnolia Building. It was kind of a landmark for us and a thrill to see the flying red horse on the horizon. It makes me sort of sad that the horse is visible from the west no more. I do see the Magnolia Hotel on my trips to the library however.

My maternal grandfather was an accountant for Magnolia Oil, working in the Magnolia offices on Fort Worth’s north side. He grew up on a ranch in Santo, sometimes driving stock to Fort

Worth before WWI. About 1913 his mother realized he would not realize his full potential on the ranch.

She convinced him to move to Fort Worth and take accounting courses at a business college. So with wife and baby boy he moved to Fort Worth. After school, he worked for Gulf Oil for a short time before going to work for Magnolia. He made a good living auditing gas stations in West Texas and was able to raise five kids, the youngest being my mother. My uncle worked for Magnolia in the mail room as a young man.

When I was 14, I took my first FCC test and was granted a limited license to use amateur radio. *Pegasus* was the symbol for radio operators. The radio signals were like lightning going through the air, kind of like the red horse! The yearly book of call signs had *Pegasus* on the front cover!

Neil McEwen, DGS Member

## Missing Your Print Copy of *Pegasus*? Update Your Member Account

A number of members contacted us about not receiving the Fall Records Issue of the DGS journal, *Pegasus*.

Only the Premiere Issue of *Pegasus* was sent to all members. To receive print copies of future issues you must request a print copy. The Publications Committee asked IT Administrator Barbara A. Ware to write this article on updating your Member Account to do that update. She includes information on other updates as well—*Marianne Szabo, DGS Director of Publications Content*

Your DGS membership account isn't only for paying your membership dues. You also choose how you will receive the society's publications (*Pegasus* and *Newsletter*), and information on upcoming events, and keep your postal mailing address and email address up-to-date.

1. Log in to your account profile to check your choices and make any changes.
2. Select MEMBERSHIP tab from the DGS home page ([www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org))
3. Select ACCOUNT MANAGER from the listing on the left.
4. Login\* to your account on the Account Manager Page.
5. At this point you will see your membership status on the left.
6. From the "What would you like to do?" drop down menu on the right, select "Update My Profile" and press Go. You may then make changes in your name, address, email address, phone numbers, special interest groups, research interests, publication options, and volunteer opportunities. If you have a household membership, you may also enter the name of your household member who shares that membership.

If you want a print copy of *Pegasus* or the *DGS Newsletter*, it is important to confirm that option on your profile.

From the same drop down menu, you may also change your account password (Change My Password), register for an event (Upcoming Events), check on your registration for upcoming events (My Registered Events), make a donation (My Donations), find other DGS members through the membership directory, and more.

After you have completed the update, select "Return to DGS Web Site," or just "Log Out."

\*If you are unsure of your account Login Name and/or password, click on "Forgot your password? Get help." Then enter your email address on the screen that appears. Your Login Name and Password will be mailed to you.

**Please don't create a new account.** As a DGS member if you create a new account, your membership payment information will not be part of that record. Please just email [administrator@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:administrator@dallasgenealogy.org) for assistance.

To access Member Only content on the RESOURCES page, you will enter your DGS Login Name and Password. There you will find the DGS minutes and current issues of *Pegasus* and its predecessor *The Dallas Journal*.—*Barbara A. Ware, DGS IT Administrator*

## NGS Announces Live Streaming Broadcast of the 2014 Conference

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) announced that it will make ten lectures available over the internet via live streaming technology.

NGS has selected some of the most popular topics and nationally known speakers (Elizabeth Shown Mills, Tom Jones, Mark Lowe and others) for two featured tracks:

Track One: Records and Research Techniques

Track Two: Virginia Resources and Migration Patterns

Registration is required and will close at midnight 30 April 2014. All registrants will receive an electronic version of the NGS 2014 Family History Conference Syllabus. Prices range from \$65 to \$145 with a discount for NGS members.

Registrants can watch the tracks live on the day they are broadcast or for up to ninety days after the event.



Details of the live streaming program can be found on the NGS Conference website at

[conference.ngsgenealogy.org/attend/live-streaming-at-ngs2014gen/](http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/attend/live-streaming-at-ngs2014gen/)



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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. The Guidelines describe 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](mailto:editorial@dallasgenealogy.org).

**DGS Special Events 2014**—Visit our website for details: [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org)

**DGS General Meetings are the first Saturday of each month (except June, July and August) in the First Floor Auditorium at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, Dallas, Texas—“Meet & Greet” at 10:30 a.m.; Meeting begins at 11:00 a.m.**

**DGS SUMMER SYMPOSIUM—July 11-12, 2014**  
(Extended hours at Dallas Public Library on July 11 for research)  
**John Philip Colletta, Ph.D.**  
*For Today's Generation and Tomorrow's: The Many Ways to Preserve Family History*

**DGS FALL LECTURE—September 27, 2014**  
**Judy Russell, *The Legal Genealogist***

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