

# DGS Newsletter



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JULY-SEPTEMBER 2014

## Judy Russell, *The Legal Genealogist*, is Featured Speaker at DGS Fall Lecture September 27, 2014

This year's Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS) Fall Lecture, on September 27, 2014, focuses on *Genealogy and the Law: From the Past to the Future*.

During this one-day seminar at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas, featured speaker Judy Russell will cover the following topics:

- *From Blackstone to the Statutes at Large—How Knowing the Law Makes Us Better Genealogists*
- “Don’t Forget the Ladies” - *A Genealogist’s Guide to Women and the Law*
- *Through the Golden Door: Immigration After the Civil War*
- *The Ethical Genealogist*



Judy is a genealogist with a law degree. One of her goals is to help researchers understand the often arcane and even impenetrable legal concepts and terminology that are important to those studying family history. Her blog, *The Legal Genealogist*, is an excellent source to find answers to the questions we have about many of the legal situations genealogists encounter.

Judy has a varied background with a bachelor’s degree in journalism from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and a law degree from Rutgers School of Law-Newark. She holds Certified Genealogist<sup>SM</sup> and Certified Genealogical Lecturer<sup>SM</sup> credentials from the Board for Certification of Genealogists® where she currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees. She is member of the National Genealogical Society, the Association of Professional Genealogists, and, among others, the state genealogical societies of New Jersey, North Carolina, Virginia, Texas, and Illinois

She has worked as a newspaper reporter, trade association writer, legal investigator, defense attorney, federal prosecutor, law editor and, for more than 20 years, she has been an adjunct member of the faculty at Rutgers Law School.

She is on faculty of the Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research (IGHR) at Samford University, the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP), and Boston University’s Center for Professional Education.

She has written several articles for both the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, and the *National Genealogical Society Magazine*.

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### Julie Cahill Tarr named Editor of *Pegasus*

The Dallas Genealogical Society is pleased to announce the appointment of Julie Cahill Tarr as the Editor of *Pegasus: Journal of the Dallas Genealogical Society*.

Julie started genealogy research in 2007, turned professional in 2011 and is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. She is editor of the *Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly*, and served as the editor for the local chapter of DAR. Julie lives in Illinois. Her website is

<http://genealogy.julietarr.com>

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Submit articles to  
[editorial@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:editorial@dallasgenealogy.org)

## President's Column

Sandra Crowley



Two things related to genealogy (other than my own research) have been at the top of my mind in the last few weeks: (1) improving my skills in genealogical research and (2) finding ways to continue to “pay it forward” for future genealogists.

If I had the time and money, I would attend every genealogical conference I could find! Alas, there's never enough of either.

This year, I decided to take advantage of the National Genealogical Society's streaming of lectures from the NGS Conference in Richmond, VA, in May. For a reduced fee from the general conference registration fee, I received a digital copy of the full syllabus and *live* access to 10 lectures from such presenters as Mark Lowe, Pamela Sayre, Craig Scott, David Rencher and others. In addition, those lectures have been saved into a password protected area; I can go back for the next ninety days and look at these at my convenience. The downside was that the lectures were chosen for me. However, there was enough variety that I decided to check it out. While being there in person is definitely the best alternative, this is something I'll consider again. The quality of these recordings is excellent and definitely worth my time and money.

We are fortunate that the Federation of Genealogical Societies will host its 2014 Conference in San Antonio this year, August 27-30. Having a national conference in your own back yard is hard to ignore. I'll definitely be there! Read more about it on the next page or visit [www.fgsconference.org](http://www.fgsconference.org) for details.



In addition to continuing to learn as much as I can to improve my skills, I am so appreciative of the work of the genealogists who have gone before me that I feel the need to pay it forward.

When asked about joining a local genealogical society, people often answer, “I don't have any research in Texas (NC, TN, whatever state you happen to be talking about).” My response is that I have no ancestors in Texas, but I do have genealogists who have gone before me in Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama who spent a great deal of time indexing records, scanning images to microfilm, writing books, and so much more. That motivates me to become involved in DGS as well as other local societies, particularly those who are dedicated to preserving records for future researchers.

DGS is undertaking some projects this year to help preserve records discovered in the Dallas Public Library. Much of this material is on microfilm but should be digitized so it can be shared with more people. To learn more about these projects, visit [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org). You might find a way that you can get involved as well.

I believe doing what I can to preserve these records and make them available for future generations is just a small way of saying “thank you.” I hope you'll join me in finding ways to help “pay it

### Society Officers—2013-2014

President <a href="mailto:president@dallasgenealogy.org">president@dallasgenealogy.org</a>	Sandra Crowley
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Parliamentarian	Vacant
<i>Pegasus</i> Editor	Julie Cahill Tarr
<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.

**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.

**No meeting in August.** 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.

### 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).

### **July 16, 2014 – 10 am at Ham’s Orchard in Terrell, Texas**

This is a favorite spot of several members and close to one member’s home. We will have lunch there of wonderful brisket and homemade ice cream! While enjoying the peaches, we also will have a Jewish genealogical subject for that day. Stay tuned to the web site for more information.

### **August 20, 2014 – Vacation**

### **September 17, 2014 – 10 am at the Dallas Public Library**

We hope to finish or reveal the new exhaustive source list for Jewish sources. We have been working on this revision since our visit to the synagogue and to the Jewish Community Center. If we finish this ahead of schedule, we will discuss Chapter 3 of *Genealogy Standards* by BCG and discuss brick walls—catching up on everyone’s research.

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

#### **August 9, 2014—1:00 p.m., McDermott Room**

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

### 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:

**June-August**—No meetings

**September 6**—Don Raney, *Research in the Texas Land Records*

**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).

## “Gone to Texas” - FGS 2014 Conference

Each year the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) hosts an annual conference that is open to anyone with an interest in finding their past. FGS conferences provide a unique setting to interact, connect, and learn from many of the world’s genealogists. This year’s event, in historic San Antonio, promises to deliver an educational and enlightening experience unlike any other. Highlights include:

- **Conference Sessions:** A wide variety of genealogy-related lectures and workshops for all experience levels.
- **Exhibit Hall:** The large exhibit hall will feature the latest software, books, maps, databases, and gadgets on the market for genealogists and family historians, as well as information about genealogical organizations.
- **Special Events:** On Wednesday evening, local hosts San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society and Texas State Genealogical Society invite registrants to an evening at the Institute of Texas Cultures, an amazing museum located directly behind the convention center. On Friday evening, The San Antonio Conservation Society hosts a festive evening with strumming guitars, shining horns, a capella voices of mariachis and local artisans at work at La Villita.
- **Focus on Societies:** On Wednesday, August 27, 2014, sessions are jam-packed with ideas and tools to help societies promote themselves, increase membership, and develop sources of revenue.
- **Librarians’ Day:** On Tuesday, August 26, 2014, ProQuest will sponsor a full-pre-conference day of sessions designed for librarians, archivists, and other information professionals serving family history researchers.

There are more activities and research opportunities too numerous to list. Learn More and Stay Connected at [www.fgsconference.org](http://www.fgsconference.org)

Like FGS at: <https://www.facebook.com/FGSgenealogy>

Follow FGS on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/fgsgenealogy> and hashtag #FGS2014.



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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)