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November, 2017

Event Schedules: [General Meetings](#) | [Special Interest Groups](#) | [Seminars](#)

Plan to Attend the Awards Banquet!

The Awards Committee is planning a wonderful Awards Banquet on December 9, 2017. We hope you can make it!

No Charge for DGS Members | \$15.00 for Guests

Register Online by Midnight Monday, December 4

[Register Now](#)

FEATURING:

- o A Special Holiday Meal
- o Awards to Honor Individual Contributions
- o Announcements of DGS Donations

December 9, 2017 | 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

7th Floor – O'Hara Hall

J. Erik Jonsson Central Library

1515 Young Street, Dallas, TX 75201

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Next General Meeting January 6

There will be no General Meeting in December, due to our Annual Awards Banquet, for which you can still register through December 4.

Our next General Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 6th, in the 1st floor Auditorium at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, located at 1515 Young Street in Dallas. Hospitality begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by our Business Meeting, which will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Our Educational Presentation will be made by Bill Buckner, of the Waco-McLennan County Library. He will be discussing "1890 Census Substitutes: Bridging the Gap." The presentation will provide some history on the 1890 US census itself as well as the circumstances surrounding the destruction that left us with very few records. Bill will also provide several alternative sources for filling in the gaps on your ancestors between 1880 and 1900.



As a reminder, you do not need to be a member of the Dallas Genealogical Society to attend the meetings. We welcome everyone who is interested!

November Meeting Recap

Our November meeting was attended by 36 members and 1 visitor who listened to Thatcher Freund's presentation on the importance of telling our stories for future generations. Thanks to Thatcher for reminding us that we each have valuable stories to share about our lives and for allowing us to record and share a video of his presentation on our website! The presentation has been viewed 22 times, and Thatcher has given his permission for the video to remain on our website indefinitely.

[Video](#)

Meeting minutes, video recordings of previous Business Meetings, and videos of our Educational Presentations (when the speaker permits) are all available on our website.

[More Information](#)

Genealogy Is Contagious!

Bring a non-member friend, neighbor, or relative to a meeting. Help us spread the word about all good things DGS has to offer! Our meetings are interesting and informative. Let's all encourage others to attend!

Between now and May, bringing a guest to a meeting will place your name in a drawing to win a registration to the seminar of your choice. You will be entered for each visitor that you bring!

Come one, come all and share the joy of genealogy!

Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society Meeting

Holiday Treats and Exciting Discoveries



Join the Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society for our Thursday, December 14th, meeting, a relaxing time with everyone sharing a favorite holiday treat and the most exciting family discovery of the year. Share this time with us as we celebrate the ending of 2017 with food, fun, and visiting starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Mesquite Main Library. Please be prepared to limit your story to 5 minutes so everyone will have time to share. Everyone is invited and welcome. You do not have to be a member to attend.

The McGowan Funeral Home - A Wonderful New Resource

Have you heard announcements about the progress in digitizing the records of the McGowan Funeral Home? Have you wondered where the McGowan Funeral Home was and who is involved in the project?

For several years the African American Genealogical Interest Group has been reviewing, cataloging, indexing, and now digitizing the records of this funeral home that served the Black Community of South Dallas from 1955-1994. These records were donated to the Dallas Public Library in 2007 when the building was sold. Each person has an individual file that contains information such as obituaries, photographs, funeral programs, birth certificates, lodge and insurance papers, newspaper articles, names of relatives, and employment information. This collection is a great resource for understanding African-American burial practices in the mid-to-late twentieth century and a treasure trove of genealogical information for individuals researching their family histories.

The final phase of the project of creating an online digital index of the collection is now in progress. To date, the index for over 3500 individuals, covering the years 1956-1976 has been uploaded to the DGS website where they can be searched and viewed by the public. AAGIG, along with DGS and the Dallas Public Library, is proud and excited to make this wonderful resource available to the public. More information about the McGowans and their funeral home can be accessed from the link below.

[Read More](#)

Special Interest Groups

Did you know that the Dallas Genealogical Society has special interest groups that meet at various times during the month? The groups that meet in December are listed below.



- **Technology Special Interest Group** meets December 7 @ 6:00 - 8:00 pm on the 5th Floor - Harmon Room, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Dallas, TX 75201.
- **MacGen Reunion Group** meets December 2 @ 2:00 - 4:00 pm on the 8th Floor McDermott Room, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Dallas, TX 75201.
- **Roots Magic Special Interest Group** meets December 10 @ 1:30 - 2:30 pm on the 5th Floor - Harmon Room, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Dallas, TX 75201.
- **The Next Generation Sitebuilder Special Interest Group** meets on December 10 @ 3:00 - 4:00 pm on the 5th Floor - Harmon Room, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Dallas, TX 75201.

- **African American Genealogical Interest Group** meets on December 16 @ 2:00 - 4:45 pm on the 1st Floor - West Room, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Dallas, TX 75201.
- **Jewish Special Interest Group** meets on December 20 @ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm on the 8th Floor- McDermott Room, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Dallas, TX 75201.
- **DNA Special Interest Group** meets December 21 @ 6:00 - 8:00 pm on the 5th Floor - Harmon Room, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Dallas, TX 75201.
- **Brown Bag Special Interest Group** meets December 23 @ 10:30 am - 1:00 pm on the 8th Floor - McDermott Room, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Dallas, TX 75201.

[More Information](#)

Spotlight on Board Members

Secretary Caroline Simpson

After graduation from Highland Park High School, I attended junior college and later after earning two bachelor degrees from University of Texas at Arlington, I worked in television production and semiconductor electronics for almost 20 years. In my spare time I sang in the church choir, where I met and married my good looking husband. This marriage has lasted almost 30 years.



While caring for my elderly parents, I was clearing out an old dusty bookshelf. I found a family chart my father had filled out by hand. I became interested in genealogy after a conversation I had with him. He relayed short histories of his and my mother's families. How I have wished to have that conversation back again.

I am working on my father's family the Gays in Montgomery County, Texas; primarily the Whitley family that migrated from Bonds county, Illinois to Montgomery, and the Brantley family from Georgia who came to Texas through Louisiana. Just wished I had asked more questions.



Dallas Genealogical Society
Established 1955

P.O. Box 12446
Dallas, Texas 75225-0446
866-968-2347

info@dallasgenealogy.org | www.dallasgenealogy.org

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