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April, 2018

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

Next General Meeting: Saturday, April 14

Our next General Meeting will be held on the second Saturday of the month, April 14, in the 1st floor Auditorium at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, located at 1515 Young Street in Dallas. Please note the change from our normal meeting schedule, as meetings are normally held the first Saturday of the month. Hospitality begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by our Business Meeting, which will begin at 11:00 a.m.



Our Educational Presentation, FamilySearch Family Tree: Your Tree, My Tree, OUR Tree, will be made by Lynell Bennett Moss, a sixth generation Dallasite who has worked in various positions at the Plano Family History Center since 1990. Lynell will discuss all the recent updates to the FamilySearch Family Tree and will do a live demonstration on how to edit individuals and relationships and add documents, photos, and other sources to the tree.

In preparation for this meeting, you should go to the FamilySearch website and download the appropriate FamilySearch Family Tree app for your device, whether it be your phone or tablet, and plan to have your device available during this interactive presentation.

For ios devices: <https://www.familysearch.org/apps/product/a-family-tree/ios>

For Android devices: <https://www.familysearch.org/apps/product/familysearch-tree/android>

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!

March Meeting Recap

Our March meeting was attended by 40 members and 9 visitors who heard Jim Thornhill's very informative presentation on Migration Through the South. Jim talked about why and how our ancestors came to America and described the modes of transportation they may have used once they arrived. He also discussed what information and documents to consider that may provide clues on the migration paths our ancestors took before finally settling in the South. You can currently find the [syllabus](#) for this presentation on our website. And, a video of the full presentation is available on the DGS website.

Upcoming Meeting: Saturday, May 5

Please join us at the May General Meeting to hear Patti Gillespie, founding member and current president of the Wise County Genealogical Society. Patti's presentation, Proving Long-Lost Family the Indirect Way: Finding the Ancestors of F.N. Raymond, will use a case study to show us where to turn when the standard records sets don't have all the answers we are looking for.

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

Spread the Word about Genealogy!

Remember to bring a non-member friend, neighbor, or a 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!

In April 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!

Officer Slate for 2018-2019

The slate of officers nominated for the Dallas Genealogical Society 2018 – 2019 Executive Committee has been finalized:

President – Todd DeDecker

Vice President – Jim Thornhill

Secretary – Caroline Simpson

Treasurer – Travis Tynes

Immediate Past President – Tony Hanson

The slate will be formally presented at the April 14 General Meeting, and the election will be held at the May 5 General meeting.

The society is always seeking volunteers for any number of Director, Advisor and other volunteer positions. Volunteering at any level is a great way to meet people, expand your skill set and have fun. We will work with you to match your skills, desires and

available time with an available position. Contact any board member or Patti Smith (our Volunteer Coordinator) at volunteer@dallasgenealogy.org if you are interested in being part of our leadership team

How You Can Volunteer!

While you are encouraged to attend the April 14 General Meeting of the Dallas Genealogical Society, you are also encouraged to get involved by volunteering to help out with this event as well as with some tasks with which we need help.

Ways you can serve:

- Arriving early to assist with the prep for coffee and good light snacks.
- Greeting guests as they arrive with a warm, friendly smile.
- Mingling with the DGS before meetings and helping everyone feel welcome.
- If you have some talent in Publicity/Public Relations, we need Editors and Proof Readers.
- We really need someone - or more than one - to take the job of providing the snacks before General Meetings so that other officers are not overworked.

To volunteer, contact us at one of the following:

email: volunteer@dallasgenealogy.org

Tweet or FaceBook: <http://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/get-involved/help-wanted/>

Spring Seminar A Success ! reports Vice-President Kristin White Moore

Nearly 100 family history buffs attended the DGS Spring Seminar on March 31 to hear **Michael L. Strauss, AG**, share new insights on familiar topics from the American Revolution to the Reconstruction Era. I know I learned about a number of Record Groups held by the National Archives that I had been unaware of and that I now need to dig into. And I really appreciated that his lecture on records in Washington D.C. highlighted how much we could access remotely.

Here are just a few of the positive comments that we've received so far:

- "Michael provided context concerning the creation of many record sets that I have never heard before, and these details should make using them much easier in the future."
- "Excellent speaker who took a topic I had heard before and added much new information. Bring him back."
- "Michael was so enthusiastic & eager to teach & help. It was contagious!"
- "Was hesitant to register for the seminar, glad I did. Michael was great speaker, I would have missed a great opportunity."
- "Every session was fascinating! Our speaker was extremely knowledgeable about his topic, very well prepared, excellent delivery. Overall very informative, provided sooo many great examples & websites to visit." "Encouraged me to start planning a trip to Washington, D.C.!!"

Looking to the Summer Seminar

On Saturday, August 4, **J. Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA** presents "**Way Down Home: Tracing Your Southern Roots**". If you've not heard Mark speak before, you're in for a treat! You can get a hint by taking a look at a preview of one his presentations on [Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#). Vice President Kristin White Moore has heard him a

couple of times at genealogical conferences, and always looks forward to his lectures. You'll be hearing more from us regarding Mark's topics and registration details during the summer, but in the meantime, save the date!

Another Way to Connect to Researchers of North Texas Family History

DGS has created a Facebook Group focused on North Texas Family History Research. It provides genealogists and family history researchers with a forum to help each other with questions about ancestors from Dallas, Dallas County and North Texas.

Join today by [clicking here](#), a hyperlink to the group page. If you are not a member you will be prompted to answer some questions.

Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society

Historic Mesquite, Inc.

Join the Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society on Thursday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Mesquite Main Library as Kelly Baird and Jordan Gortmaker of Historic Mesquite, Inc. discuss the projects and activities that preserve, not only the historic buildings in town, but also the history and culture of Mesquite.

Kelly, Collection Management, is a 4th generation Texan with a life-long interest in history, people and places. She will explain the Mesquite Meander, the annual cemetery tour of the Mesquite Cemetery on May 18 and 19. She has researched many of the families and people interred there, discovering stories long forgotten.

Jordan, Historic Homes Coordinator, is responsible for visitor tours, conditions reporting on the various buildings at the park and special events. Kelly and Jordan will show visuals of the Lawrence Home and the Florence Farm, explain their history. The public is invited and welcome and you do not have to be a member to attend. Come early for visiting and refreshments.

Grand Prairie Genealogy Society



The Grand Prairie Genealogical Society held its monthly meeting on April 5 at the Grand Prairie Memorial Library, 901 Conover Drive, Grand Prairie, TX 75050. The speaker was Patti Gillespie and her subject was "Courthouse Records: A one stop shopping for Family History". Visitors are welcome to this very informative meeting. A meet and greet will be at 6:30 and the meeting will begin at 7PM.

Genealogy Seminar featuring Lisa Louise Cooke

Sponsored by the Heritage Ranch Genealogical Society

On Wednesday, April 18, 2018, internationally sought-after speaker and podcast host Lisa Louise Cooke will lead a seminar from 9 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. in the Ballroom at Heritage Ranch Golf and Country Club, 456 Scenic Ranch Circle, Fairview, TX 75069.

Author of a variety of materials, Cooke is the owner of



Genealogy Gems, a genealogy and family history multi-media company. She is producer and host of the Genealogy Gems Podcast, the popular online genealogy audio show available at <https://www.lisalouisecooke.com>

Price for the Seminar, including a buffet luncheon, is \$40.00 if registered by April 1, 2018 or \$45.00 after April 1, 2018. For this event, there will be no cancellation refunds after April 13, 2018.

TO REGISTER: Mail a check payable to Heritage Ranch Genealogical Society to
Linda Watson, 947 Winged Foot drive, Fairview, TX 75069.

Questions may be directed to Toni Selby at casrjs@grandccom.net or Karen Robertson at karen441@gmail.com.

April Special Interest Group Meetings

Do you want to explore a special genealogical interest? The Dallas Genealogical Society has special interest groups that meet at various times during the month? The groups that meet in March are listed below.



- **MacGen Reunion Group** meets April 14, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. on the 8th Floor - McDermott Room, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Dallas, TX 75201.
- **Jewish Special Interest Group** meets on April 18, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on the 8th Floor - McDermott Room, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Dallas, TX 75201.
- **DNA Special Interest Group** meets April 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on the 7th Floor - Stone Room, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Dallas, TX 75201.
- **African American Genealogical Interest Group** meets on April 21, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. on the 1st Floor - West Room, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Dallas, TX 75201.
- **Brown Bag Special Interest Group** meets April 28, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on the 8th Floor - McDermott Room, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Dallas, TX 75201.
- **Technology Special Interest Group** meets on May 3, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on the 7th Floor - Stone Room, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Dallas, TX 75201.

[More Information](#)

Spotlight on Board Member Lisa Ross

I grew up in Azle, Texas. I went to school at the University of North Texas and earned a BA in Theatre Performance. Now I am married and work as a Real Estate Asset Manager in Dallas.

Growing up, I did not know much about where my family came from. Both of my parents were from Michigan. So, growing up in Texas, I was not around much extended family and didn't have the benefit of a lot of family stories. Neither of my parents really talked about where their families came from; and, as most children, I didn't tend to ask. The only thing I did know for *sure* was that my maternal great-great grandmother was pure Cherokee! How did I know this? Well...my mother told me so!

As I got older, I started to wonder about the people I *did* know. Where did they come from? How did they end up where they did? Then I learned about Ancestry.com while watching a TV show. So, I got on my computer, setup an account, entered my parents' and grandparents' names, and ...voila! I got my first leaf! Needless to say, I was hooked.

Years later, after getting more serious about my research, I started asking my mom more questions about my great-great-grandmother. So far, I had not been able to find anything that confirmed that she was in *any way* Cherokee, let alone 100%! I asked where she had heard this. And, I talked to my aunt, my great-aunt, and my cousins. Nobody knew. It's just what "they had been told".

A few more years went by and I convinced my mom that we needed to take DNA tests. She agreed and we did. Then I got that exciting email from Ancestry telling me that our results are in! I went right to my Ethnicity Estimate... 47% European Jewish, high percentage of Western European mixed with a small percentage of Irish, Scottish, and Welsh. But, wait...0% Native American! Zero! Zilch! Nada! Nothing! Are they sure? So, I looked at my mom's...100% European...

I still haven't found the origin of the Cherokee tale, but it's been a fun journey of discovery either way. Genealogy has given me the opportunity to meet so many new family members - both those with whom I share DNA and those I do not, like the family I have made with the Dallas Genealogical Society. Being part of this society has been such a rewarding experience!



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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PO Box 12446
Dallas, Texas 75225
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