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**June 2018**

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



**Dallas Genealogical Society**  
Established 1955

## **Lloyd Bockstruck: 1945 - 2018**

Lloyd de Witt Bockstruck, distinguished genealogical scholar, librarian, writer, educator, and lecturer, died Sunday, May 27, 2018 in Dallas, Texas at the age of 73.

[Read More](#)

[Donate to Lloyd's Memorial Fund](#)



## **Summer Seminar**



**By Jim Thornhill**

I hope you all will be able to join us for this summer's seminar on August 4. Our presenter, Mark Lowe, is a dynamic and entertaining speaker with a positive attitude. I have also been impressed by the depth of Mark's genealogy knowledge. Every time he is asked a question, the answer is always readily forthcoming.

Mark's topics for this seminar will be an invaluable resource for us all. Whether our ancestors were always from the South, migrated into the South, or were brought here against their will, you will learn how to find those illusive ancestors. Mark will share

with us tips and tricks that are sure to stretch all of us and make us better Family Historians!

In addition to the excellent program there will be the invaluable networking with fellow genealogists and door prizes! See you on the 4th!

[More Information](#)

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## September 8 General Meeting

**By Lisa Ross**

Please join us at our next general meeting which will begin at 11:00 on September 8. After a short business meeting, Betsy Mills will be discussing '*Dating, Identifying, Preserving, and Sharing Old Photos*'.



Our general meetings are free and open to the public. Come early (refreshments begin at 10:30) and try to stump our volunteer researchers with **your** family history questions.

See our website for additional [information about our next general meeting](#).

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## Help Wanted



**By Todd DeDecker**

As we head into summer, your board is planning for the coming year. One of the focus areas is to better leverage the skill, talent and passion of our society members. This is where you come in!

There are board positions currently open (hospitality as an example) and some that will open up in the fall. How would you like to engage? What are the areas where you can make a difference?

We're aiming to have committees working together to lead key areas of the society. This approach lets us take full advantage of the skill and perspective that you bring to our genealogical table without an individual member having to shoulder the load on their own. I'd like to hear from you on areas that interest you and on the skills you have that our society can use to grow and thrive.

We really do need you and I am asking that you reach out to me or Patti, our Volunteer Coordinator, to learn more about how you can engage with the society and make a real difference. I look forward to hearing from you!

- Todd DeDecker: [president@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:president@dallasgenealogy.org)
- Patti Smith: [volunteer@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:volunteer@dallasgenealogy.org)

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## Bring A Friend - Drawing in September

**By Gloria Goodwin**

We goofed! In one of our recent "clean up the storage closet" frenzies we inadvertently disposed of the tickets we have been collecting for our 'Bring A Friend' promotion. So... we were not able to have the drawing in May as planned.



If you brought a friend in the past year and have \*your\* ticket, please contact Gloria Goodwin at the email address listed below and provide her with the details. In order to give everybody a chance to provide us with their information we will delay the drawing until the September 8, 2018 meeting.

[membership@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:membership@dallasgenealogy.org)

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## DGS Seeks a Newsletter Editor

By Tony Hanson

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Are you looking for a way to make a significant contribution to the success of our society without having to leave your house? Read on....

Karan Marshall did a great job launching our revised newsletter format, but other obligations have emerged, and she has resigned with our deep gratitude for a job well done. So, we are looking for another self-motivated, energetic individual (or individuals) to take over.

As editor, your job would be to solicit articles from other society leaders, edit and compile them into the newsletter format, provide a draft copy for review by contributors and reviewers and distribute the finished newsletter.

All of this can be accomplished remotely using email and web-based tools used by the society to create and distribute email to our members. Training and mentoring will be provided to help bring you up to speed.

Read more about the Responsibilities and Duties of the eNews editor [on our website](#).

If you are interested, please contact us at [info@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:info@dallasgenealogy.org)

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## Lloyd de Witt Bockstruck Papers

By Kathleen Murray

In January 2018, Lloyd de Witt Bockstruck donated his personal collection of genealogical materials to the Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS). He desired that the materials be made accessible to family history researchers at the Dallas Public Library (DPL), where he headed the Genealogy Section for 30 years. Lloyd agreed to transfer his rights to the donated materials to DGS and granted DGS the rights to manage, archive, curate, preserve, digitize, and make them publicly accessible.



Appreciating the significant contribution Lloyd made to the genealogical community and to the Dallas Public Library, the Society did not hesitate to accept Lloyd's donation and the DPL agreed with enthusiasm to house the papers and provide access to them.

DGS volunteers began the management and curation process in January.

[Read More](#)

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## Hospitality Hosts Needed



**By Tony Hanson**

The refreshments we offer before each general meeting are made possible by volunteers who bring the snacks and show up a little early to make the coffee.

This is a great way to get involved, meet people, and give back to the society! All it takes is a little of your time and we reimburse any costs!

For more details, or to volunteer for a meeting, see our [Volunteer Signup page](#).

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## Special Interest Groups

**By Tony Hanson**

Several of our Special Interest Groups are continuing to meet over the summer. Participating in one of these groups is a great way to learn and meet people!



There is no cost, and you do not need to be a member of the DGS to attend. See our website for a [complete schedule of all upcoming Special Interest Group meetings](#).

- The [Jewish Interest Group](#) meets at 1:00 pm on [Wednesday, June 20](#)
- The [Brown Bag Group](#) meets at 10:30 am on [Saturday, June 23](#)
- The [MacGEN Group](#) meets at 1:00 pm on [Saturday, August 11](#)

All of these meetings will be held in the McDermott room on the 8th floor of the [Dallas Public Library](#).

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## May Meeting Recap



**By Lisa Ross**

Our May meeting was attended by 34 members and 2 visitors. Following the business meeting, Patti Gillespie, founding member and third-term president of the Wise County Genealogical Society, gave an interesting presentation on *'Proving Long Lost Family the Indirect Way'*. Using a case study,

Patti showed us how we sometimes have to take the long way 'round in order to break down our brick walls. She provided several examples of how indirect evidence can be used to prove a hypothesis when direct evidence is just not available.

Patti allowed the recording of her presentation for those who were not able to attend live or those who just wanted to watch it again. The video remained on the DGS website for two weeks following the presentation. During that time the video was viewed 84 times.

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

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## **Don't Miss David Rencher on September 29!**

**By Jim Thornhill**

Our Fall Seminar is just around the corner! Irish Genealogy specialist David Rencher will be here with a well rounded program on Irish Genealogy. David's topics will be: Introduction to Irish Internet Sites, Irish Church Records, Chasing the Poor and the Landless, and Irish Estate, Land, and Property Records. Whether your ancestor was a servant or part of the Irish Nobility, this seminar will help you find your Irish Ancestors. See you on September 29th!



[More Information](#)

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## **Spotlight on: DGS Webmaster**



**By Susan Rainwater**

Occasionally people say to me, "I couldn't get interested in genealogy because I'm not sentimental." My response is always the same. "I'm not sentimental either. I just like the puzzle." This is a better answer than my late mother-in-law's assertion that I just wanted to dig up dirt on everyone.

The truth is, I do find the colorful characters and total train wrecks more interesting than the upright citizens. The family members who lived on the family farm, tilled the soil, produced a lot of kids, and were buried in the churchyard are fine. We owe a lot to them. But Isabella Sutton, who assumed she was a widow after seeing a newspaper article about her husband's death and remarried, only to have her first husband turn up nine years later very much alive, that's an interesting story. Or boxer Ed Dunkhorst, "The Human Freightcar", who spent the final years of his life as a vaudeville sideshow act called "The Big Baby" dressed in baby clothes and a bonnet. Or Grace Marshall, who was imprisoned by her parents for 13 years because she wanted to marry an older man. Or Charley Grapewin, who lost everything in the 1929 crash, and found a second career in Hollywood playing old codgers, including Uncle Henry in The Wizard of Oz. These people are all my family, and I would not know anything about them but for my genealogical research.

My immediate family harbored one of these mysterious stories. My grandfather, Pete Chance, was adopted from a Baltimore foundling home in 1901, so we were told, and we were instructed to never ask about his family. In the early 1990s, after he had died,



I began writing letters to any elderly Chance family member I could find, asking if they remembered any stories about this event. Eventually, I made contact with a 2nd cousin, herself a genealogist. She called and asked a lot of questions, I think to make sure I was sincere, and then told me that there had never been a foundling home. Pete had been adopted by his aunt and uncle. His mother was the uncle's sister who had gotten pregnant out of wedlock. With this success in cracking a family mystery, I was hooked and have been at it ever since.

To me, genealogy is history in miniature. It's how we are connected to stream of time. And it's a wonderful puzzle.

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This issue was edited by **Tony Hanson**

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