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December 2018

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

Don't Miss our Awards Luncheon: Register by Wednesday Dec. 5

Tony Hanson

Join us on Saturday, December 8 as we recognize several individuals who have made significant contributions to genealogy and our society this year. We will also be announcing several significant donations to the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library.



The luncheon is free for DGS members and only \$15 for their guests, but you must register by Wednesday, December 5.

[Register Now](#)

A Conversation with Kenyatta D. Berry

Barbara Ware

The Dallas Genealogical Society in partnership with the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library is offering an exciting program open to the public on Thursday, December 20, 2018, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Auditorium of the library at 1515 Young Street, Dallas. "Conversation with Kenyatta" features the nationally known professional genealogist and host of Genealogy Roadshow (PBS), Kenyatta D. Berry, who is on a 20-city book tour launching her new book *The Family Tree Toolkit, A Comprehensive Guide to Uncovering Your Ancestry and Researching Genealogy*.



As demand grows for people to learn more about their lineage and DNA, Kenyatta

continues to innovate, transforming the world of genealogy by making it more accessible to the masses and personal to each individual's quest to educate, inspire, enlighten, inform, and, most importantly, help everyone to understand "who they are."

Knowing your ancestry is more than just ethnic percentages; it's creating and building a story about your family history. The Family Tree Toolkit is designed to help you navigate the sometimes overwhelming and treacherous waters of finding your ancestors. Whether you are looking for your African, Asian, European, or Jewish ancestry, Kenyatta's book guides you on how and where to begin, what records are available both online and in repositories, what to do once you find the information, how to share your story and, of course, how to discover the secrets of your DNA.

Join local genealogists and family historians in conversation with Kenyatta. FamilyTree DNA is the exclusive DNA test company sponsor. Parking is available under the library through the entrance on Wood Street. Come early for some research time in the 8th floor Genealogy Department. Library hours: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursdays.

Focus on: Sharon Bowles

Director for Publicity and Public Relations

Sharon is returning to the DGS board after having served as Secretary in 2016-2017. She has been a DGS member for approximately 7-8 years. Three years ago her friends Kathleen Murry and Tony Hanson "drafted" her to assist with some DGS leadership roles and tasks. In the "small world" category, she met this powerhouse duo because they were her sister's next-door neighbors. She considers them to be her genealogy mentors (although they might not want that "credit.")



Sharon is a native Dallasite with roots in Oak Cliff. She currently lives in Richardson. Her heritage is predominantly UK and Irish, with most of those ancestors having made their way to the US southern states. She is related to Sam Houston. She is a mental health professional by trade, and recently retired from the University of Texas at Dallas. She worked there for over 25 years in the Student Counseling Center. She hopes to make many more genealogy research trips now that she supposedly has more time.

Although Sharon is facing a learning curve in the role of Publicity Director, she feels confident about learning the system and bringing everything up to date. She looks forward to being part of the team brainstorming and implementing ideas to increase awareness of all DGS has to offer.

Dallas Public Library Teams with FamilySearch to Digitize Genealogy Collections

FamilySearch.org

The Dallas Public Library is working with FamilySearch International, the largest genealogical organization in the world, to digitize the library's extensive family history book collection.



The initiative will expand free online patron access worldwide to the library's digitized historical records.

"The Dallas Public Library has a long relationship with FamilySearch through microfilming Dallas County records in the 1990s," said Dallas Public Library Director Jo Giudice. "We're excited to take the next step in scanning books with the FamilySearch team."

Digitizing this collection will give researchers from around the world unprecedented access to rare and one-of-a-kind family histories. Dallas Public Library's family history book collection is a small part of the library's genealogy collection, considered one of the largest and most comprehensive collections for family history research in the Southwest. FamilySearch volunteers will scan the family history book collection. It contains more than 16,000 volumes of material donated over a 60-year period. The first records digitized will be rare family history books printed before 1923.

"Dallas Public Library has been a top 5 genealogy library in the U.S. for many years. Partnering with them on the scanning initiative is going to benefit so many family historians far and wide," said David E. Rencher, director of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The DGS Participated in the Frisco Public Library Genealogy Expo on November 10

Tony Hanson

The Frisco Public Library sponsored a Genealogy Expo on Saturday, November 10. There were several short presentations throughout the morning (including ones by DGS members Patti Huff Smith and Tony Hanson), and attendees were able to pursue their research with assistance from the library staff in the afternoon.



Lisa Ross, Sharon Bowles, Patti Huff Smith, and Tony Hanson staffed a display table (along with several other area societies) and handed out literature about the society and upcoming events.

November Meeting Recap

Lisa Ross

Twenty-six members and three visitors attended our November meeting. Our Educational Presentation was made by Stephanie Bennett, who is currently serving as the Genealogy & History Division Manager at the Dallas Public Library (DPL). Stephanie talked about all the wonderful updates and changes to the Genealogy Section that were recently completed and are



currently in the works, such as the added desk spaces and the amazing digitization room. She discussed several genealogical resources available at the DPL and provided tips and tricks for navigating the collection, online databases, and resources in other sections of the library that may be helpful to those researching their family history. Information was also provided on several items unique to the DPL collection, including family files, a family bible collection, and Dallas funeral home archives. You can view a copy of her Powerpoint presentation on our website.

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

January 5, 2019 General Meeting

Lisa Ross

Remember there will be no General Meeting in December, due to our [Annual Awards Luncheon](#).

Please join us in January, when Bernard Meisner, Past President and Social Media Chair of the Mid-Cities Genealogical Society, will be presenting State and Territorial Censuses – Underused Genealogical Tools. While you are probably familiar with the decennial federal census, you may be less familiar with the availability and importance of the state and territorial census records. Mr. Meisner will discuss how to locate these underutilized records as well the value of the information within them. These state and territorial census records are an excellent resource for helping to fill in the gaps for our ancestors between those federal census years.



Our January 2019 General Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 5th, 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. 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!

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

2018 Texas State Genealogical Society Conference Recap & Announcement

Suzan Younger

The Texas State Genealogical Society hosted their 2018

conference, *Journey through Generations*, in San Antonio November 2-4 at the Omni Hotel at the Colonnade. The program offered 60 sessions divided into six tracks which included DNA, Ethnic, Methodology & Problem Solving, Publishing and Preservation, Records and Repositories and Technology. There were four workshops.



The speaker line-up included several DGS members and area genealogists. Mic Barnette, Tony Hanson, Kelvin Meyers, David Passman, and Ari Wilkins presented nine lectures covering methodology, records/repositories, and technology subjects.

The annual conference serves as the venue for the TSGS Annual Meeting and election of new board members. I am proud to announce that TSGS members elected DGS past president Tony Hanson to the Texas State Genealogical Society Executive Board as the Director of Membership. Tony will serve a two-year term in this role. Please join me in congratulating Tony as he begins this new endeavor.

Register for Amazon Smile

Tony Hanson

Did you know that Amazon.com will contribute to your favorite non-profit every time you make a purchase? If you register the Dallas Genealogical Society as your designated recipient, we will receive a 0.5% percent donation for any purchases you make through the Amazon Smile program.



Full information about this great program is available [here](#)

Dallas County Clerk Real Property Records Online

Suzan Younger

Dallas County (Texas) Clerk John Warren is the custodian of Dallas County real property records and is responsible for making records accessible to the public. The County Clerk's office offers online access to real property records using the Rapid Online Access Management or "ROAM" system. By accessing ROAM, you will have access to Dallas County historic deeds as well as many types of modern county real property records.



[Read more...](#)

Mesquite Genealogical Society: Holiday Treats and Exciting Discoveries

Sandra Eckstein

Join the Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society for our Thursday, December 13th meeting, and enjoy 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 2018 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.

DGS Newsletters Needed

Tony Hanson

We will be sending our collection of Newsletters to the University of North Texas to be digitized soon. However, we are still missing a few original paper copies.

If you have one of the issues listed below, please contact Tony Hanson at pastpresident@dallasgenealogy.org so we can make arrangements to borrow it and use it to create high quality images that will be archived on The [Portal to Texas History](#).

- 1989 - November (Issue 117)
- 1992 - November (Volume 16, Number 9, Issue 145).
- 1995 - October (Volume 19, Number 6, Issue 163).
- 1995 - May (Volume 20, Number 5, Issue 169).
- 2011 - January 2011 (Volume 37, Number 1, Issue 297)
- 2011 - April (Volume 37, Number 2, Issue 298)



This edition edited by **Suzan Younger and Tony Hanson**



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