May your holiday season end the present year on a cheerful note and make way for a fresh and bright New Year filled with peace, health, happiness, and prosperity.

Doña Ana County Genealogical Society had an exciting and fun filled year thanks to all of you. At the November general meeting the Executive Committee gave reports about the many activities, programs, projects and community outreach that we did in 2019. If you missed the meeting, be sure to check out the minutes to get a summary. If you have any questions about what we did or ideas for 2020, be sure to let us know.

At the November meeting we also elected officers for 2020. I am delighted to serve as your President for another year and Frankie Lerner will serve as Vice President. Stepping up to the plate as Treasurer is Trica Willey Hazelton who served as Treasurer from 2017 through 2018. Your new Secretary will be Phyllis Fleming. In January we will have announcements of members who will chair the various standing committees. We will be looking to each of you to help share the load. If you would like to serve or have ideas, we hope that you will contact one of us.

As we transition to new leadership and to 2020, the current year’s Executive Committee met with the incoming officers. Each member reported on what had been accomplished in 2019 and what we hope for DACGS in 2020. Among the ideas is that we will have another Beginning Genealogy Class with a new approach. Look for more information in January on this class. A recommendation was made to expand the Coaching Program so that it will be offered twice in 2020. We are excited about the growth in membership and we will continue to offer services and programs that will encourage people to join us as we learn and expand our research skills.

We encourage everyone to check out the DACGS website at www.dacgs.org to stay informed on what is happening, resources that are available to you, and ideas to help you with your research.

We hope those who attended enjoyed the DACGS holiday party this year at Lescombes. It was a great time to visit with your fellow genealogists and share ideas. Let us know what you think about this venue so that we can start early planning activities for 2020. We also distributed the Recipe Booklet: Recipes of our Ancestors at the party. Thanks to all who contributed recipes.

May the good times and treasures of the present become the golden memories of tomorrow. Keep the ideas coming and most importantly have FUN!
From the Editor:

Hello everyone! We’ve come to the end of another year, and what a year it has been! We had some great presentations at our monthly meetings, our members have been involved in several worthy projects, (including collaborative efforts with other groups), our membership numbers have grown (welcome John Charbonnet, Winifred Jahneke, Georgetta and John Smith, Barbara Camunez, Linda and Merle Osborne, Rebecca Ramos, Selena Valdez, and Mary Wilke), and we have had lots of FUN. It seems to me that it’s been a great year!

Members continue to submit interesting articles and information, which I greatly appreciate, and do my best to include in these pages. Your contributions are what make this newsletter such a success. So… keep those articles, photos, and ideas coming!

Wishing you and yours a very peaceful and happy holiday season, and a year filled with health, happiness, love and laughter.

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Your Executive Committee

Officers: Elaine McKinney, President; Frankie Lerner, Vice-President; Carole Luke, Secretary; Jim McKinney, Treasurer
Standing Committees: Marcy Hundley, Membership; Frankie Lerner, Programs; Larry Brown, Finance; Keith Burke, Public Relations
Other Members: Carl Hundley, DACGS Webmaster; Susie Coker, Newsletter Editor; John Smith, Historian; Karen Pineau, Past President

Genealogy Fair

"Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas."
~ Peg Bracken

More than 150 people participated in the Genealogy Fair: Discovering Your Genealogy sponsored by the Doña Ana County Genealogical Society and the Las Cruces Family History Center held on September 21st. Eighteen classes were offered in rotation over the three hours with an average of about 120 people attending those classes. Classes included beginning genealogy, ancestry.com, familysearch.org, British research, genealogy apps, wills and probates, Catholic Church records, preserving records, fashions of the past, and Find-a-Grave plus several videos of topics from the 2019
RootsTech. Eleven organizations had exhibit tables to inform those attending about services they can provide.

At the end of the genealogy fair door prizes totaling in value to about $2,500 were given away.

In addition to the class teachers there were many volunteers who provided technical assistance, served as class assistants, manned the registration tables, served refreshments, and directed attendees to the classrooms.

Thanks go to those DACGS members who served on the Planning Committee: Elaine McKinney, Jim McKinney, Doug Wilke, Carl Hundley, Marcy Hundley, Keith Burke, and Bruce Pearson. Among those representing the FHC were Karen Taylor, Larry Taylor, John Smith, and Georgetta Smith who are also members of DACGS.

Article by Dorothy Wray, Co-chairman, 2019 Genealogy Fair
Hogmanay

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Hogmanay is the Scots word for the last day of the year and is synonymous with the celebration of the New Year (Gregorian calendar) in the Scottish manner. It is normally followed by further celebration on the morning of New Year's Day or, in some cases, 2 January—a Scottish bank holiday.

The origins of Hogmanay are unclear, but it may be derived from Norse and Gaelic observances. Customs vary throughout Scotland, and usually include gift-giving and visiting the homes of friends and neighbours, with special attention given to the first-foot, the first guest of the new year.

Origins - The roots of Hogmanay perhaps reach back to the celebration of the winter solstice among the Norse, as well as incorporating customs from the Gaelic celebration of Samhain. The Vikings celebrated Yule, which later contributed to the Twelve Days of Christmas, or the "Daft Days" as they were sometimes called in Scotland. Christmas was not celebrated as a festival and Hogmanay was the more traditional celebration in Scotland. This may have been a result of the Protestant Reformation after which Christmas was seen as "too Papist".

Customs - There are many customs, both national and local, associated with Hogmanay. The most widespread national custom is the practice of first-footing, which starts immediately after midnight. This involves being the first person to cross the threshold of a friend or neighbour and often involves the giving of symbolic gifts such as salt (less common today), coal, shortbread, whisky, and black bun (a rich fruit cake), intended to bring different kinds of luck to the householder. Food and drink (as the gifts) are then given to the guests. This may go on throughout the early hours of the morning and well into the next day (although modern days see people visiting houses well into the middle of January). The first-foot is supposed to set the luck for the rest of the year. Traditionally, tall, dark-haired men are preferred as the first-foot.

Local Customs - An example of a local Hogmanay custom is the fireball swinging that takes place in Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire, in northeast Scotland. This involves local people making up "balls" of chicken wire filled with old newspaper, sticks, rags, and other dry flammable material up to a diameter of 2 feet (0.61 m), each attached to about 3 feet (0.91 m) of wire, chain or nonflammable rope. As the Old Town House bell sounds to mark the new year, the balls are set alight and the swingers set off up the High Street from the Mercat Cross to the Cannon and back, swinging the burning balls around their heads as they go.

At the end of the ceremony, any fireballs that are still burning are cast into the harbour. Many people enjoy this display, and large crowds flock to see it, with 12,000 attending the 2007/2008 event. In recent years, additional attractions have been added to entertain the crowds as they wait for midnight, such as fire poi, a pipe band, street drumming and a firework display after the last fireball is cast into the sea. The festivities are now streamed live over the Internet. Another example of a pagan fire festival is...
the burning the clavie in the town of Burghead in Moray.

In the east coast fishing communities and Dundee, first-footers once carried a decorated herring. And in Falkland in Fife, local men marched in torchlight procession to the top of the Lomond Hills as midnight approached. Bakers in St Andrews baked special cakes for their Hogmanay celebration (known as "Cake Day") and distributed them to local children.

Institutions also had their own traditions. For example, amongst the Scottish regiments, officers waited on the men at special dinners while at the bells, the Old Year is piped out of barrack gates. The sentry then challenges the new escort outside the gates: "Who goes there?" The answer is "The New Year, all's well."

An old custom in the Highlands – which has survived to a small extent and seen some degree of revival – is to celebrate Hogmanay with the saining (Scots for 'protecting, blessing') of the household and livestock. Early on New Year's morning, householders drink and then sprinkle 'magic water' from 'a dead and living ford' around the house (a 'dead and living ford' refers to a river ford that is routinely crossed by both the living and the dead). After the sprinkling of the water in every room, on the beds and all the inhabitants, the house is sealed up tight and branches of juniper are set on fire and carried throughout the house and byre. The juniper smoke is allowed to thoroughly fumigate the buildings until it causes sneezing and coughing among the inhabitants. Then all the doors and windows are flung open to let in the cold, fresh air of the new year. The woman of the house then administers 'a restorative' from the whisky bottle, and the household sits down to its New Year breakfast.

"Auld Lang Syne"

The Hogmanay custom of singing "Auld Lang Syne" has become common in many countries. "Auld Lang Syne" is a Scots poem by Robert Burns, based on traditional and other earlier sources. It is now common to sing this in a circle of linked arms that are crossed over one another as the clock strikes midnight for New Year's Day, though it is only intended that participants link arms at the beginning of the final verse, before rushing in to the centre as a group.

Recently I read a novel set in Scotland that referenced Hogmanay. I had never heard of it, so naturally searched the web to learn what I could. I found this article and thought it might interest you as well. SC
ARE THESE YOUR RELATIVES?

Smallpox killed millions in the Old World. It killed an estimated three and half million native Americans in the 15th century when smallpox reached America.

In 1796 an English physician, Edward Jenner, learned that milkmaids who contracted cowpox never suffered from smallpox. He began research that lead to a live bacteria vaccine that immunized English children. It’s success quickly spread to Europe and in 1801 King Carlos IV of Spain decided to make the vaccine available in the New World based on Dr. Jenner’s research. But how to get it to America. Trips by ship were long and the vaccine would not survive to reach the new world.

The answer, human carriers. King Carlos IV tasked Francisco Javier de Balmis , court physician, to arrange to have orphans travel by ship to the Americas. The head mistress of the orphanage, Dona Isabel Gomez y Cendala was to travel with the children and care for them.

It would work like this: Two children would be vaccinated when the expedition began. When the sores from the vaccine were filled with pus, two more children would be inoculated from that pus, and so on across the ocean. The children were told they would receive an education at the expense of the crown after their job was done. Most survived, and we have those first orphan’s names. Because they were orphans, most did not have last names.

Vicente Ferrer, 7 #       Manuel Maria, 3 *
Pascual Aniceto, 3 #     Jose Manuel Maria, 6 *
Martin, 3 #              Domingo Naya, 6 *
Juan Francisco, 9 #      Andres Naya, 8
Tomas Metiton, (Meliton?), 3; Jose, 3
Juan Antonio, 5
Vicente Maria Sale & Vellido, 3 *
Jose Jorge Nicolas de los Dolores, 3
Candido, 7 *            Antonio Veredia, 7*
Francisco Florencio 5 *  Francisco Antonio, 9*
Geronimo Maria, 7 *     Clemente, 6 *
Jacinto, 6 *            Benito Velez *

* adopted once they reached Mexico
# in school in 1809

In 1804, Governor Fernando Chacon, in Santa Fe, NM sent a caravan to Chihuahua with a few children to start the vaccine north.

As instructed soldier Manuel Dominguez (son of Maunel Dominguez & Maria Antonia Valencia) and Invalido Bartolo Martin (son of Salvador Martin & Feliciana Rael) took their 2 children to El Paso where they met other children in El Paso. They connected with 4 children from Chihuahua carrying the illness/vaccine. On their return to Santa Fe, 22 children in Sevilleta, 38 children in Savinal, 37 in Albuquerque and 150 in Santa Fe were inoculated. In 1808 children in Santa Fe were vaccinated with dry vaccine.

Josef Antonio Ribera, age 2, child of Julian Ribera
Maria Valencia, age 1, child of Juan Valencia
Ana Maria Paes,age 2, child of Miguel Paes (deceased)
Rafael Rael, age 2, child of Roman Rael
Maria Antonia Lucero, age 2, child of Nasario Lucero
Juan Archuleta, age 2, child of Antonio Archuleta
Maria Candelaria Tujillo, age 3, child of Gaspar Tujillo
This article gives us another layer of flesh for our ancestor’s bones. Their courage carried us all out of the smallpox years.

Source: “Precious Cargo Carriers”, NM Genealogist 39:3, Sept 2000

Submitted by Sally Kading

In this section of each issue I will be asking a couple of our members a few questions so that we can all get better acquainted. This time we will be learning a little more about Keith Burke and Sarah Clark.

Keith Burke

SC: Hi Keith! Thanks for agreeing to be “interviewed” for our newsletter. We all know you are great about getting information about our DACGS happenings out to the public, and now we’re happy to get to know you a little better. Will you please tell us a little about yourself?

KB: I grew up and attended grade school, high school, and college in Monmouth Illinois; graduate school at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. Worked as a chemist for various research laboratories including NASA at WSTF and ending
with a 2nd retirement (2020) from the chemistry department at NMSU. There were many technical publications through the years. Enjoyed the NMSU student contact, especially with those trained in Russia.

Before Las Cruces, it was great to have lived in the NYC metropolitan area and enjoy culture and arts. Also lucky to have contacts that sent me to work, with diplomatic status, for the United Nations (UNDP and UNIDO) in South America and the Middle East.

**SC:** How long have you been interested in genealogy, and what first caused you to become interested in searching for your family roots?

**KB:** Many years, probably about 65. With my cousin we needed to help our grandmother find her birth certificate for Social Security. She was born in Nodaway County Missouri. I commend Missouri for its on-line vital records. My grandmother’s 1878 record was lost in a courthouse fire. The government finally granted her SS benefits, thanks to the 1880 census of Atchison, Nodaway, Missouri. Her encounter with Jesse James is mentioned in the DACGS cookbook along with her recipe for a holiday cucumber salad.

**SC:** What names are you searching for, and where do these people originally come from?

**KB:** Names: Charles (Pennsylvania), Burke (Ireland), Bowers (Germany), Ingles (Philadelphia) Gohn (Germany), Kinman (North Carolina) Kinard (Germany), Rose (England), Resolved White (1615-1687 Pilgrims, England), Daniel Boone 1st cousin 7X removed (England), Allphin (England), Johnson (Scotland), Persinger (Switzerland), Rayhill (Switzerland), Pence (Germany), McFadden (Ireland), etc.

**SC:** What is your favorite resource for doing your research?

**KB:** Some of my favorite resources are: Find a Grave, Ancestry, Family Search, We Remember by Ancestry (free with membership), Military Records by Ancestry (free with membership).

**SC:** Have you encountered any brick walls in your research? Have you eventually been able to get over or around the walls?

**KB:** In 1974, with my aunt, I helped find her DAR link. That produced a brick wall for a tie between the DAR persons and Mary Draper Ingles. Mary’s 1755 capture and escape from American Indians is documented in a bestselling novel *Follow the River*, James Alexander Thom. She is my 1st cousin 7X removed and was subject of my DACGS presentation. Connection to the Irish Burke line remains a brick wall.

**SC:** How long have you been a member of DACGS, and have you held any office or positions in DACGS?

**KB:** I have been a member since August of 2015. I have been a member since August of 2015. I have made several presentations and recently assumed publicity for DACGS and the 2019 joint meeting with the LDS and DACGS.

**SC:** Have you been involved in any other genealogical groups?

**KB:** No, other than on-line organizations such as: Facebook: Our Family Genealogy, Family Search, WikiTree, etc.

**SC:** Do you have any tips you can share with the other DACGS members?

**KB:** The DACGS web pages are supported by Wild Apricot for a charge. I have deployed my own (Wild Apricot) pages free from any cost to myself or users. The free site is limited to 50 members and can be found: https://burkegenealogy.wildapricot.org/

I have made extensive use of a spreadsheet (Excel) to catalog: contacts, family lines, organization of
photos, Find a Grave details for my contributions, Famous People in my line, etc.

**SC:** Thanks so much for sharing, Keith! It has been great getting to know you better and I am impressed with the list of famous people you have found on your tree, even though we don’t have room to share it here. I’m sure you will be getting questions from folks wanting to make use of some of the resources you have highlighted.

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**Sarah Clark**

**Susie:** Hi Sarah. I know you a little better than some in our society because we are both members of DAR, but I am anxious for all of us in DACGS to get better acquainted. Thanks for agreeing to be “interviewed” for our newsletter. Will you please tell us a little about yourself?

**Sarah:** I am the youngest of four children. I was born in Paso Robles, California, moved to Tucson the summer I turned 8, moved to Yreka, California, the summer I turned 9, then to Silver City the summer I turned 13. My father was a high school English teacher, and my mother was a stay-at-home mother, although she was a registered nurse. My mother was an army brat, so she lived all over the place growing up. Her roots in the US go to the first settlers in Virginia in the south and Mayflower passengers in the north. My father was a first generation American, his parents being Serbs who had lived in what is present-day Croatia and immigrated to the Pittsburgh, PA, area.

**Susie:** How long have you been interested in genealogy, and what first caused you to become interested in searching for your family roots?

**Sarah:** Family history was always a regular topic of discussion on my mother’s side of my family but not on my father’s. My mother’s maternal grandmother was a professional genealogist for the DAR in Washington, DC. As you can imagine, she had done extensive family research, so I had a huge head start having her work readily available to me. At the time she had done research, photocopies were uncommon, very expensive, and not good quality, so I had pedigree charts but no supporting records. I spent a lot of time verifying the information that she had recorded, which, for the most part, was very accurate, and I have extended and expanded on that work.

Then there was my father’s side of my family, which was basically a big blank on my family tree. It’s still a pretty big blank extending back in time, but I have expanded it tremendously laterally. I have gone from knowing that he had three full sisters, one half-sister, and one brother, to discovering that he had another full sister, two full brothers, all of whom died at very young ages, and a much older half-brother who lived most of his life in what is present-day Croatia. That half-brother had six children, four of whom married and have descendants. My husband and I have visited there several times and gotten to know quite a few of my cousins. It’s been extremely rewarding.

**Susie:** What names are you searching for, and where do these people originally come from?

**Sarah:** Surnames of particular interest to me are Stepanovich, Ivoевич, Vujnovich, and Musulin, including multiple variant spellings of all of them.

**Susie:** What is your favorite resource for doing your research?

**Sarah:** If I have to pick out one source I favor over all others, after some consideration, for general research I would have to choose familysearch.org.
It’s so extensive, completely free, and I like its search engine better than ancestry’s.

**Susie:** Have you encountered any brick walls in your research? Have you eventually been able to get over or around the walls?

**Sarah:** Yes, I’ve had brick walls along the way. I would say day after day for years that I had spent yet another day banging my head against the wall, until one year, within a period of six days, I found two things I had been looking for for years and years. My advice? Never give up! Do I still have brick walls? Of course! When you find out about one generation, it doesn’t end there. There’s always another one beyond that. Of course, some lines simply fizzle out with no additional information ever available, but we develop new interests, more information becomes readily available, and new ideas develop as to how to approach a problem, so it’s never-ending. And, if I get bored or discouraged with my own research, there are plenty of people to help!

**SC:** How long have you been a member of DACGS, and have you held any office or positions in DACGS?

**Sarah:** I have been a member of DACGS since 2015. I have not held any offices in the group. I presented a program on tracking my Serbian roots a couple years ago.

**Susie:** Have you been involved in any other genealogical groups?

**Sarah:** I am extremely active in DAR, having served the society at the chapter, state, and national levels. I’ve been a member for 45 years. I am also a member of a lot of other hereditary societies, including the Mayflower Society, US Daughters of 1812, and Daughters of Union Veterans, to mention just a few.

**Susie:** Do you have any tips you can share with the other DACGS members?

**Sarah:** Again, never give up, and ask for help when you need to.

**Susie:** Thanks so much for sharing, Sarah! You have a very interesting story; unfortunately, I was unable to share all of it in these pages due to space constraints. Hopefully our members will have a chance to hear “the rest of the story” from you at some point in the future. It’s been great getting better acquainted.

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**Women's Fashions of the 1880s**

My interest in old fashions started while trying to date some old photographs of my ancestors.

This photo (circa 1885) of my great grandmother (far right) and her sisters came from a second cousin. It is one of many in a photo postcard collection that her grandfather saved.

She believed the girls were placed in line not by age, but by their alternating light and dark blouses. At that time period, only married women would have worn gloves, which would be Anna on the far
left. She was the oldest and married about 1881 so that was one factor in determining when this photo was taken. Another factor was my great grandmother's possible age. She was born in 1873, but looks at least in her early teens, which could date the photo into the late 1880s.

Their skirts do not match with what is found when searching for 1880s fashions. These are much more form-fitting at the hip rather than the bustle type. Searched for women's pleated skirts for that timeframe and found a pattern for a gored walking skirt. The same search also showed a Trumpet skirt – neither are an exact match but are closer than anything else found to date.

Trumpet Skirt:

Then there are hat fashions! These appear to be from the Edwardian era in the early 1900s when women's hats were quite lavish and ostentatious. My great grandmother is on the left and two of her sisters are in the right-hand photo. What ever happened to the hats? Can you imagine the size of the hat boxes? If you look at the background, the same photography studio was used for all three photos. The background image screen could be just a tad bit lower to meet the floor or were they on tracks to move in a different background easily?
Note: In the late 19th century, the picture postcard became an inexpensive way to mail images to friends and relatives. You could purchase postcard views of locations, or you could request to have your portrait printed as a postcard by a local photography studio. This seemed to be the preferred method of keeping in touch with this family as the brothers also participated.

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https://raogk.org/

This volunteer organization has been around for many years. I first discovered it in 2008 shortly after finding a possible family of my husband's grandmother in the Westerly, RI 1910 census. Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK) listed a volunteer who offered to do vital record lookups at the Westerly public library and town hall.

I sent a request for the birth record of his grandmother. Within a week, I had confirmation that I had found the right family. Her birth record was located in the town hall of Hopkinton, 4 miles north of Westerly. Over the next 6 weeks, the volunteer found his grandmother’s parent’s divorce record, her father’s remarriage, his death record and where he was buried, sibling’s birth records, obituaries of various family members, marriage records of both parents families and burials, culminating in 10 fact-filled pages of family genealogy going back at least three generations for some branches. She checked old cemetery books because there were no tombstones for a set of great grandparents, verified Civil War service on Ancestry and Footnote (now Fold3), made numerous cemetery visits and checked out every possible record she could think of.

This kind of help is not usual, so I am extremely thankful to have found her.

Today there is much more information on the site than 11 years ago. They also have research guides and other U.S. resources. Don't miss the Military Records Research Guide. The PA guide is full of links for each war from the Colonial Wars to the Spanish-American War.

It is also now a worldwide volunteer organization with volunteers from these countries:

- United States (1054)
- Europe (23)
- Mexico (1)
- New Zealand (9)
- Canada (56)
- Asia (4)
- Australia (23)
- North America (2)
- Professional Researchers (1)
- South America (4)
- United Kingdom (44)

Once you find the county/region you are looking for, please read the types of lookups the volunteer is willing to do. Some offer a wide variety of lookups while others may only search the books they own.

Articles by Jeannie Kowalik
The Best Scanner for the Genealogist

The best camera you can have is the one you always have with you; that is usually your smartphone. The same can be said for a scanner. Imagine yourself at grandma’s house with all those old family documents and portraits on the wall, in frames, behind glass. So, you pull out your smartphone and start making a digital image of them. But you quickly find it is impossible to get a glare free image no matter how many lights you turn off or how you reposition the framed image. Just download PhotoScan by Google Photos from your app store and you will now be able to take GLARE FREE photos at Grandma’s house or at that museum or archive center. It is free and available for Android or Apple, and best of all there is no learning curve!

After installing the app just move that little blue PhotoScan icon next to your camera icon so you will remember to use it. Tap on the icon and it will open the camera. Position your camera directly over (or in front of) the framed picture so that the image mostly fills the screen. You will see 4 circles in a square with another circle in the middle. From that middle circle there will be an arrow pointing at one of the circles on the square. Just move your camera in that direction, keeping it level, until that middle circle overlaps the corner circle. The camera will take a picture and another arrow will appear pointing to the next corner circle. Keep moving your camera around the square until it has snapped images at all 4 corners. Within seconds the app will have melded the four images into one glare free result, and it will be added to a folder in your Gallery called, of course, PhotoScan.

I said it was easy. Now there are only two adjustments you can do to this image: adjust the corners to fit the image precisely by dragging each corner to where you want it and rotating the image if necessary. And there are only 2 settings to deal with: one can turn the flash on/off. Play with it but I usually leave it on. The second setting allows you to turn off the 4-image melding feature. But why since that’s the whole purpose of the app!

My recent scans show an image size between 2 and 3 MB and a resolution of around 2250x3000 pixels. That’s sufficient to fill a Hi Def TV screen if that was to be your end result. And don’t forget your camera will allow you to enter information on location (photoscans do not automatically record location) and tags (digital equivalent to writing on the back of a paper photo) so you will remember what it was when you get around to editing and organizing these scans. To do this just click on the image, click the 3-dot menu upper right, click on details, click on edit, and enter location and tags.

Happy scanning!

Article by Doug Wilke
This is not a complete list, but a quick review of the DAGC highlights of 2019!

- The new executive committee approved changes to the By-Laws, finalized a new logo, and the Executive Team made presentations to other service organizations to let them know about DACGS and what we do in order to continue spreading the word about DACGS. The DACGS brochure was updated with the new logo and information as well letterheads and membership cards updated.

- Frankie Lerner lined up some great presenters for the year along with special event visits to the El Paso library and the Archives at NMSU. Some of the presentations included what happened to our ancestors, genealogy quiz, Roots Tech trip, census records, DACGS website, Find A Grave, preserving letters and photos, preserving items other than paper and what was found in Grandpa's barn.

- Carl Hundley and Jim McKinney worked on the website making it more user-friendly and provided more information. Please visit it often as there is so much to discover!

- The DACGS library was condensed and moved thanks to many volunteers and Carole Luke. Two open houses have been held. If you haven't checked into what books the society has for your use, you can find the list on the website (thank you Doug Wilke). Many great books are there to help you in your research!

- DACGS volunteers helped the Dona Ana County Historical Society identify some burials at the cemetery in historic Old Picacho Village.

- The coaching program was kicked off with great success offering members "one-on-one" help. If you need help with your research, please ask as there may be someone with the skills or knowledge to assist.

- The Genealogy Fair: Discovering Your Genealogy was sponsored by DACGS and the Las Cruces Family History Center in September. Classes included beginning genealogy, ancestry.com, familysearch.org, British research, genealogy apps, wills and probates, Catholic Church records, preserving records, fashions of the past, and Find-a-Grave. The fair will be held again next summer/fall.

- A Beginning Genealogy 101 class was held, and there will be more in the future, using a new format.

- Membership has steadily increased with an average of four new members per month!

- Jim McKinney kicked off a new cemetery project in June. It will encompass cemeteries, both private and public, columbariums, mausoleums and other burial grounds. Information will be posted to Find A Grave and eventually to Family Search. This is a huge undertaking and all attempts to make the process streamlined in in progress. Some members are now working on gathering obituaries from Legacy.com.

- Elaine McKinney assembled a recipe book for the members who provided a family recipe. What a treat!

- Some of the DACGS members who are also members of the Dona Ana Chapter NSDAR participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony held at Fort Bayard. The chapter raised money for 361 wreaths, helping fill the cemetery with wreaths for the second year in a row.
The Wreaths Across America wreath laying ceremony is open to the public. Anyone is welcome to volunteer to assist in placing the wreaths! Families or individuals who purchase a wreath for their family member buried at Fort Bayard are given their wreaths first to place. Once the families have placed their wreath(s) and paid their respects, volunteers spread out to begin placing the remaining wreaths, saying the name of each veteran aloud and thanking him or her for their service. It is a very memorable and moving experience.

This year in review was possible through the help of our members. Thank you Frankie and Dorothy!

Article by Jeannie Kowalik

A big thanks for the great summary of a great year, Jeannie!