

Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News

April 2024

P.O. Box 860477, Plano, TX, 75086-0477

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Schedule of Events

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events. Saturday seminars are held at W.O. Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd, Plano, TX from 10:15 to Noon.

May Events

May 9, 2024—Round Table Zoom Discussion Group— Zoom meeting from 7-9 pm

May 11, 2024—Research At The Library—In Person at Haggard Library 10:30 am to 1 pm

May 14, 2024—DNA Special Interest Group—Hybrid —7 to 8:30 pm

May 18, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—A Foundational Step in Research Strategy-What is the Research Question?" by Emily Richardson

Future Events:

June 15, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—"AI and Genealogy" by Thomas MacEntee

July 20, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—"Working With An Online Family Tree" by Bernard Meisner

August 10, 2024—Research At The Library—In person at Haggard Library 10:30 am to 1 pm

August 17, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—"Diseases, Disasters, Distress: Bad for Your Ancestors, Good for Genealogy" by Lisa Alzo

September 21, 2024—Virtual All Day Seminar—"Research: From Planning to Writing—See page 8 for more information

Check out the events on our Website— <https://www.genealogyfriends.org>

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Genealogy Friends

Purpose: To educate members and library patrons in doing genealogical research and to support the Genealogy Center of W.O. Haggard, Jr. Library through donations.

Goal: To expand the library collection to meet the needs of this genealogically diverse community.

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

Like and Follow us on [Facebook - Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries](#)

The annual membership meeting is held each October.

Gen Friends Membership

Our membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Individual memberships are \$30 a year and family memberships are \$50.

The money we raise is used to pay for programs and to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

Pay online or download the membership form on our website <http://genealogyfriends.org/news/> send it in with payment to

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc

PO Box 860477

Plano, TX 75086-0477

September All Day Seminar

Gen Friends All Day Seminar will be on 21 September 2024—"Research: From Planning to Writing."

Topics and Speakers will be "

- Ready-Set-Plan! Developing a One-Step Research Plan by J. Mark Lowe
- Research Logs: The Key to Organizing Your Family History by Diana Elder
- Elements of a Genealogy Source Citation by Lisa Stokes
- Writing Your Family History Step-by-Step by Lisa Alzo

Recordings of the talks will be available for three weeks after the seminar for attendees.

Register on our website—<http://www.genealogyfriends.org/all-day-seminars.html>

See the flyer on page 8.

Genealogy Events—Save the Dates

Dallas Genealogical Society 2024 Seminar Series:

- June 8, 2024 "You Have Your Ancestry.com DNA Results: Now What?" with Tony Hanson and Barbara Coakley
 - July 27, 2024 "The Legacy of Forced Removal: Finding Formerly Enslaved & Indigenous Kin" with Nicka Sewell-Smith
 - September 28, 2024 "Autosomal Analysis: Tools for Finding Your Ancestors" with Blaine Bettinger
- <https://dallasgenealogy.org/meetings-events/seminars/>

Texas State Genealogical Society Family History Conference will be November 1-2. There will be 10 presentations on Live Days with Q&A and on-demand recordings that will be available through 31 January 2025. More details will be available soon.

Check out Conference Keeper to keep up with events. <https://conferencekeeper.org/>

Genealogy News

RootsTech will be collaborating with the FamilySearch Library to host new live classes every month—the theme for April is DNA. https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/FamilySearch_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

Ireland—County Cork’s Skibbreen Heritage Centre has uploaded 23,000 previously unavailable burial register records from 18 graveyards. They now have over 82,700 burial records on their website. <https://skibbheritage.com/west-cork-graveyards-database/>

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society has created a map that shows their digital collections. <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/nygbs-digital-collections-map> A membership is required to access the collections.

Fold3 added a new collection “US, Black and Indigenous Soldiers in the American Revolution, 1775-1783.” Access to this collection does not require a paid subscription. https://www.fold3.com/publication/1431/us-black-and-indigenous-soldiers-in-the-american-revolution-1775-1783?xid=7307&utm_source=Internal&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Content_February-2024

Fold3—The War of 1812 Pension files digital collection is now 86% complete. This project is a result of a fund raising project by the National Genealogical Society. The project was put on hold during covid and resumed in May, 2023. Access does not require a paid membership to Fold3. https://www.fold3.com/publication/761/us-war-of-1812-pension-files-1812-1815?xid=7370&utm_source=Internal&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Find_April-2024. Here is a link to a blog post about the collection. https://blog.fold3.com/what-can-you-learn-from-the-war-of-1812-pension-files/?xid=7370&utm_source=Internal&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Find_April-2024

The 4th Edition of Evidence Explained has been published. This edition reexamines historical resource and simplifies citation practices. There are hardcover and ebook editions available. <https://genealogical.com/store/evidence-explained-4th-edition/>

The Library of Congress map collection includes Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. A new version of the website for this collection was launched in December. <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/?searchType=advanced> Here is a link to the blog post about the collection. <https://blogs.loc.gov/maps/2023/12/searching-for-sanborn-maps/> The Genealogy Friends newsletter from May 2021 includes an article about using these maps.

The St. Louis Genealogical Society collection includes papers from the Missouri Territory. <https://stlgs.org/research-2/community/history-of-st-louis/missouri-territorial-papers>

MyHeritage announced the launch of their new website—OldNews <https://www.oldnews.com/> There is a free 7 day trial subscription to explore the site.

MyHeritage announced the Wiki, AI Record Finder and the AI Biographer. AI Record Finder is an interactive, intelligent, free-text chat to help you locate records about a specific person. AI Biographer compiles a Wikipedia-style biography article about a person’s life using details from matching historical records and family tree profiles. The MyHeritage Wiki contains information about locations, records, and more. <https://www.myheritage.com/wiki/Home> Articles about the new features are available on their blog <https://blog.myheritage.com/>

Volunteer Opportunities—We Need Your Help



Gen Friends Needs Your Help

Genealogy Friends is run by all volunteers and there aren't many of us. In order to keep the society active we need more people to step up, help out, and think creatively.

Here are a few opportunities:

- Newsletter Articles—tell the story of an heirloom, your favorite website, history of the area, a sketch of one of your ancestors, a unique record you found that was useful, technology you use, etc. I can help edit the piece.
- Photographer to take pictures at monthly meetings to post on our website.
- Event Coordinator—Plan our annual dinner meeting and quarterly lunches. If you can plan a party you are qualified for this. We'll provide a checklist to follow.
- Board Member—Secretary—take minutes at board meetings. If you can take notes and create a Word Document you can do this.
- Social Media—create events on our Facebook page for Saturday Seminars, DNA Group meeting, and Roundtable Discussion Group. The postings are created all you would have to do is log on and create the events on Facebook. Step by Step instructions will be provided.

The board is very supportive and we help each other so you won't be left on your own.

DNA News

Family Tree DNA is running a sale on all their DNA tests—Family Finder, Y DNA, and MtDNA—through April 25, 2024 to celebrate DNA Day. <https://www.familytreedna.com/>

WikiTree for DNA Matching—WikiTree is one big family tree. After you upload your gedcom file, mark the people who have taken DNA tests. The DNA Confirmation feature helps to confirm relationships. The tool will also help you find descendants who can test for target testing by showing you everyone who descends from an ancestor not just those that have tested. . <https://www.wikitree.com/>

MyHeritage has added the ability to securely share DNA results with a collaborator. Here is a link to their blog article https://blog.myheritage.com/2024/03/new-sharing-dna-results-with-a-collaborator/?utm_campaign=DNA%20Share&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz--

Unique Place Names

By Joy Gough

My grandmother always said she was born in Hard Scrabble, Ohio. My husband's grandmother was from Toad Suck, Texas. Hard Scrabble shows up in various farming areas in the US. Toad Suck was near Collinsville in Grayson County. There is another place called Toad Suck in Arkansas.

One of the first things settlers did when moving to a new location was name it. Sometimes they named places after where they came from. Other times the communities were named for geographic or physical features. Other times the communities were named for early residents or family members.

Every once in a while, a community was given a unique, oddball name. Collin County had its fair share of odd names, no Hard Scrabble, but strange just the same. Here are some of them.

Altoga - Altoga is located northeast of Princeton. The community applied for a post office with the name "All Together." The name was rejected and "Altoga" was suggested instead. Altoga was a thriving community as one time with a bank and movie theater, a doctor, a school and stores.

Backbone - There was a school and cemetery with this name located east of Culleoka. No idea why or how the area got that name. It is on the banks of Lake Lavon today.

Boggy - Boggy was located north of Farmersville. I guess it was muddy a lot.

Boxtown - Boxtown was in the vicinity of Fairfield. It was so named because the houses were built like boxes with the wood planks vertical instead of horizontal.

Brakebill Hill - This was a hill on the Gray Branch west of McKinney that was difficult for the horses to climb and descend.

Button - Button was near Prosper and was named for the acorns from the oak trees.

Climax - The *Dallas Morning News* ran an article recently on where the name came from. I believe the answer was "no one knows." The residents of this area were mostly from Illinois and wanted to name it that. There was another community named Illinois, so they chose "Climax." It is located slightly northeast of Princeton on the way to Farmersville.

Cowskin - Cowskin is sometimes called Cowhide. There was also a Cowskin school and a Cowskin Creek. It was located between Nevada and Farmersville almost on the Hunt County line. One story says so many panthers were killing the cattle that the people started hanging the skins outside in hopes of scaring the panthers away. Another story says cattle rustlers took cattle to the area to skin.

Culleoka - This sounds like a unique name, but it was actually named for Culleoka, Tennessee. Supposedly it is Indian for sweet water.

Desert - This community is located on SH 121 where it leaves Collin County and enters Fannin County. The story goes that some early settlers built a camp fire near here. They went hunting and left one person to watch the fire. He heard noises and "deserted" the camp. When the hunters got back, they found out that Indians had been in the camp. Everyone pronounces this like Mojave "Desert," when in reality it should be pronounced "Dessert."

Dog Drop - Dog Drop Road is still on some maps of the Wylie area. It got its name because dogs were dropped there.

Dump - Dump was located north of Wylie and west of St. Paul. It had a school and a post office. Supposedly the postman just "dumped" the mail there.

Eureka - Eureka was located east of Wylie at a crossing of the East Fork of the Trinity River.

Fillmore - Plano originally was named for President Millard Fillmore. Some residents did not like the political implications and the name was changed. Aren't you glad they did?

Freegrass - In the days before pastures were fenced, grasslands were free to cattleman. The community was located east of Blue Ridge.

Unique Place Names

Frog Not - This is one of my favorite odd names. Frog Not was located east of Blue Ridge. There are a couple of stories about the name. One story says the residents killed all the frogs and it became known as Frog Not. Another story says some boys brought frogs to school and the school adopted a no-frog policy. A few people say the name is actually Frog Nod because the frogs sing when you are nodding off to sleep. It had a school and a Frog Not store.

Graybill - The Graybill community and school were located northeast of Westminster. The local doctor had a gray horse named Bill.

Happy Hollow - The community was started after Farmersville banned saloons. It had a couple of saloons and a store.

Hide Out - Hide Out was located south of Frisco in a dense thicket where outlaws were said to hide.

Hog Waller - Hog Waller was located east of Allen and south of Lucas along Bethany Road.

Hominyville - Located about 1/4-mile northeast of the current downtown Plano area, this was another name the town. The mill in the area did not grind the corn very fine. A branch of the Butterfield stage line went through this community.

Jungle Bottom - The area along White Rock Creek near Preston Road and Springcreek Parkway had thick undergrowth and was thought to hide wild animals and bandits.

Ketch Any - A man in the area east of McKinney and north of Milligan had two different kinds of chickens - fancy and common. When he asked his son to catch a chicken for dinner, the son asked, "Which kind?" The father answered "Ketch Any."

Lazy Neck - The Lazy Neck community was located near Lucas. No idea where the name came from.

Lick Skillet - Evidently this was a common name for stage coach stops. The story is that the food was so good at the stage coach stops that the riders would lick the skillets. Another story says the panthers and bears would enter camp at night and lick the skillets. One community was located northeast of Anna and another one was located at Pilot Grove in Grayson County.

Lick Springs - The Lick Springs community and school were located about 5 miles southeast of McKinney. The animals would lick large holes in the creek banks for the salt deposits.

Lone Tree - Lone Tree was north of Wylie. Supposedly there was a single tree with a box on it and the mailman put the mail in the box.

Long Neck - This community was located about 1 mile northwest of downtown Princeton and predates Princeton. No idea how it got its name.

Monkey Run - Children would throw rocks at travelers on the roads and then run away. Someone supposedly said, "Look at the monkeys run" and residents said they lived "down where the monkeys run." There were 2 communities with this name in the county.

New Life - New Life was a community north of Princeton.

Nickelville - Nickelville was the original name for the Wylie area. When the community applied for a post office, someone said "No one in the area is worth a plug nickel." The name stuck. Another story says it was no bigger than a nickel. There is a Nickelville Road in Wylie.

Out of Sight - Out of Sight was the name of the community and school east of Wylie where the train yard is today. It is where the two railroads divided with one going across the lake and the other one going east to Greenville.

Possum Trot - As strange as this name is, Collin County had 4 communities so named. Possum Trot was named for the opossums that trot by at night looking for food.

Pot Rack Creek - This creek flows north/south between Desert and Blue Ridge. Some say pot racks for cooking were put on trees along the creek for the settlers that came through the area. Others say the early travelers to the area found sticks that Indians had used to support their pots over a fire.

Rat Road - Rat Road was west of Culleoka. Evidently there was a rat problem throughout the county. The schools had contests to see which student could bring in the most rat tails.

Unique Place Names

Rawhide - This was the name of 3 different schools in the county, so named because the buildings had rawhide doors.

Roland - This area south of Weston got this name because the store owner was a great admirer of the old stories of knights and Charlemagne.

Rough & Ready - The Rough & Ready school near Wylie got this name when a huge crowd gathered to celebrate the completion of the building and a fight broke out.

Skeeter Flat – Skeeter Flat was a school on the Rockwall, Dallas, Collin border. The school was located in Collin County but it eventually became part of the Rockwall school district.

Speckled Pup - This community and school were located 4 miles west of Plano near Coit Road and Park Road. Supposedly a Spanish family camped next to a creek where their dog drowned. When the residents found the dead puppy, they named the area “Speckled Pup” or “Spotted Pup,” or “Spanish Pup.”

Squeezepenny - This area northeast of McKinney still carries this name. The local miller was very tight with his measuring of the corn. The rock used to build the old courthouse and jail came from a quarry at Squeezepenny.

Sugar Hill - Sugar Hill was the original name for Farmersville. A couple of stories exist about the name all involving sugar and a general store. One story says at one time the store was out of everything except sugar. Another story says the store was adding sugar to some sour whiskey.

Sunbeam – Sunbeam was a school on the Grayson County line north of Celina. Originally it served kids from both counties, but later the district was divided along the county line with the Collin County kids going to Celina.

Swayback - Swayback, one of Collin’s oldest communities, was located south of Rhea Mills. The name came from the church building which was built without a center beam for the roof. The roof sagged in the middle and the community and school were named Swayback.

White Elephant - This was a school about 2 ½ miles northwest of Prosper. No idea where the name came from. The school house was moved to Prosper.

Who’d a Thought It - The story goes that the people of the Parker/Lucas area ran out of money to build a church. They held a dance to raise the money for the church. Who’d a Thought It?

Some of the creeks had interesting names like Ticky Creek, Brushy Creek, Hurricane Creek and Muddy Creek. Very descriptive.

There were unique names like these everywhere. It is interesting to find out the stories behind the names. A search on the internet for the meaning of Hard Scrabble says the word describes how hard the settlers had to work in the fields, especially on poor farm land. No explanation for Toad Suck.

Research At The Library

The next Research At The Library will be on May 11, 2024. Join Genealogy Friends at W.O. Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Road, Plano from 10:30-1.

11:00 Demo of Digitization Equipment by Library Staff

12:00 Brick Wall Buster Cards Demonstration

If you are just getting started or have a question or problem we’ll have experienced genealogists on hand to help.

Bring a project you are working on and take advantage of the resources at the library. The library is a FamilySearch Affiliate Library so using their computers you can access records on FamilySearch that you can’t see from home.

Hope to see you there.

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries Presents:

Research: From Planning to Writing

September 21, 2024
Virtual Seminar

Registration:
www.genealogyfriends.org

Recordings Will Be
Available for 3 Weeks



Discover
Your Roots With Us!

Featuring:



J. Mark Lowe
Ready-Set-Plan!
Developing a
One-Step Research
Plan



Diana Elder
Research Logs:
The Key to
Organizing Your
Family History



Lisa Stokes
Elements of a
Genealogy
Source
Citation

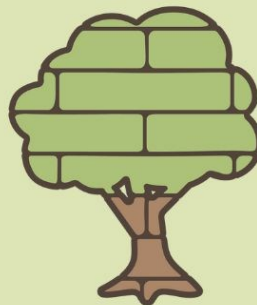


Lisa Alzo
Writing Your
Family
History
Step-by-Step

Have you hit a **BRICK WALL?**

Brick Wall Buster Cards System

- ✓ Visualize your ancestor's life facts
- ✓ Find new links & relationships
- ✓ Simplify & organize
- ✓ See gaps, errors, and conflicts
- ✓ Plan and brainstorm
- ✓ Problem-solve with narratives



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