



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
April 2021

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

[http:// www.genealogyfriends.org](http://www.genealogyfriends.org) <http://genfriends.blogspot.com/>

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Schedule of Events

Haggard Library is closed so we are holding our meetings via Zoom

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events. Meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice from 10:15 to 12:00. Invites will be send out the week before the meeting.

This Month

April 17, 2021—Zoom Meeting—”The Most Prominent Citizens: Using County and Local Histories to Locate Ancestors” by Cari Taplin

Future Events:

May 6, 2021—Zoom Meeting—Genealogy Round Table—We are a group of genealogy enthusiasts who get together to share information and help each other on the first Thursday of each month. Zoom invite will be sent out the week before the meeting.

May 15, 2021—Zoom Meeting—”Brick Wall Breakthroughs” by Thomas MacEntee. **We can submit problems and Thomas will include one in his talk. Email newsletter@genealogyfriends.org for a link to the form to submit your problem.**

June 19, 2021 - Zoom Meeting - "30 Websites Every Genealogist Should Use" by Emily Richardson

If there is a topic that you would like to learn about either in a Saturday seminar or newsletter article, email Barbara Coakley newsletter@genealogyfriends.org.

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Publications for Sale

The following are available from Genealogy Friends:

Public Land Survey Systems	\$5
Plano Star Courier Index 1904-1910	\$20
Plano Star Courier Index 1911-1917	\$20
Cemeteries of Collin County, TX	\$40
Collin County, TX Voter Registration Index 1867	\$20
Place Names of Collin County, TX	\$10
Railroads in Collin County, TX	\$10

Genfriends 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 purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

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
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Genealogy Education & News

Vivid-Pix software is available at a discount and GenFriends earns money with every purchase. Email newsletter@genealogyfriends.org for the link to purchase Restore for \$39.99 and help raise money to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section of the library.

Many genealogical societies are offering their programs via Zoom, check those in the area where your ancestor lived. Here are just a few:

NEHGS "**Out to Sea: Researching Mariner Ancestors in New England**" April 22 3-4 pm edt, speaker is Susan Donnelly. <https://hubs.americanancestors.org/out-to-sea>

St. Louis Genealogical Society "**All Roads Lead to Missouri**," May 1 and May 2, Virtual, Patti Lee Hobbs and Local Speakers. <https://stlgs.org/events/family-history-conference>

Orange County California Genealogical Society "**They Changed My Name: Immigration Myths and Mythologies?**" and "**The Minnie Story: A Tale of Two Sisters**" by Dr. Janette Silverman, May 1. <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYtd-6grjMoG9UDQjxq1GzzWaj0-FYNcC5D>

Georgia Genealogical Society "**I Remember Mama, But Not Her Maiden Name**," by Mary Kircher Roddy CG, May 13, 2021. <https://www.gagensociety.org/events/i-remember-mama-but-not-her-maiden-name>.

TIGR—Texas Institute of Genealogical Research has four tracts in 2021. June 13-18. There are three tracts with space still available. **DNA Fundamentals for Genealogy** - Patti Lee Hobbs, **From Spanish Rule to Republic: Research in the Lone Star State**,- Kelvin Meyers and Colleen Robledo Greene and **African Americans in the South** - Ari Wilkins. Register for virtual institute <https://www.txsgs.org/texas-research-institute/>

The Dallas Genealogical Society's Summer Seminar is Dr. Thomas W. Jones "**Write It Up!**" July 9-10th <https://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/meetings-events/seminars/2021-summer-seminar-2/> If you are thinking about writing your family stories, this is a great opportunity to sharpen your skills.

Some institutions are doing expanded lookups and will provide copies of records. Look for a research request form or rules for lookups on their websites and requests. Explore the online catalog and submit your requests, you never know what research question you might be able to answer.

His Tombstone Reads "Skelped by Indians"

Submitted by Barbara Brogdon

Traces of Texas reader sent in this photo from the Oak Hill cemetery in Lampasas. The inscription reads:

James EL, son of
JN and HN Gracy
Born March 16 1847
Killed and skelped by Indian
April 9, 1862
Aged 15 years and 24 days

Here is the story, from the Lampasas visitor's guide:

"Early-day Lampasans had not only to deal with hacking an existence out of the frontier; they also had to cope with the Indians, many of whom still remained in the territory.

While the Indians took vengeance on the settlers, they were also embroiled in tribal warfare, which at times left them hungry and destitute. It was at those times they sought help from an unlikely source – Harriet Gracy, proprietress of the Star Hotel. She was said never to turn away anyone who was hungry. In time, the Indians came to trust Mrs. Gracy and consider her a friend.

Yet, Mrs. Gracy's youngest son, 16-year-old Jimmy, was murdered by the same Indians she had fed at the back door of the hotel.

Young Jimmy and his 15-year-old friend, Prince Ryan, had gone out late one day in search of a mission [missing?] milk cow. Somewhere south of town, they encountered a band of Indians who killed them both.

Late that evening, a group of cowhands riding into town after work, came upon their scalped and arrow-riddled bodies. Mrs. Gracy was serving the evening meal to hotel guests when the punchers brought her dead son to the door.

After having heard what happened, the stricken mother ordered her horse saddled, and then, directing that someone attend to her boy's body, she mounted and set off into the night.

It was midnight, the story goes, when she approached the Indian camp, identified herself and told the lookout to wake his chief.

When she was brought into his presence, Mrs. Gracy flung an accusation at the chieftain, "Your braves have murdered my son!" In an attempt to placate the grieving woman, the chief tried to explain that his warriors had not known the boy was her kin. Whereupon she quickly replied, "My son is no more important than the Ryan boy or any other mother's son – These senseless killings must cease!"



His Tombstone Reads "Skelped by Indians"

It appears the midnight visit from the distraught mother had a telling effect on the course of future events and local Indian affairs, because according to old-timers, it was not long before the warring chiefs met to parley.

The meeting took place in the street beside today's Santa Fe Depot, and it is said that Mrs. Gracy not only attended the conference but also joined in the negotiations and the smoking of the pipe of peace which finally brought peace to the region.

The Gracy boy is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery underneath a headstone inscribed, "Skelped by Indians." Young Ryan rests in the Cook Cemetery, south of town near where the youths met their deaths."

Thank you, Paul. What a tragic story!

Posted on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TracesofTexas>, submitted by Barbara Brogdon

Searching Google Books

by Barbara Coakley

Google Books should be on your go-to list of websites. They have a collection of out of print books that you can search, read and download that contain information about our ancestors, laws, the places they lived, historical events, and much more. For a recent project I needed to know the probate laws in effect in the 1890's in Illinois.

The url is <https://books.google.com>.

Enter your search term - family names, locations, occupations, events, etc. I chose Illinois Probate Laws. If you put your terms in " " it will look for an exact string. You can also use the * wildcard.



Illinois probate laws

Search the world's most comprehensive index of full-text books.

My library



Illinois probate laws

Q All News Images Maps Books More Settings Tools

Free Google eBooks Any document Any time Sorted by relevance Clear

- Any books
- Preview available
- Google eBooks
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Use the filters to narrow search results.

I changed **Any Books** to **Free Google eBooks**.

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CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT Probate jurisdiction in Illinois has changed hands so often that for the sake of clearness it may be well to review ... Laws

Q All News Images Maps Books More Settings Tools

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- books.google.com > books
- Any time
- 21st century
- 20th century
- 19th century
- Custom range...

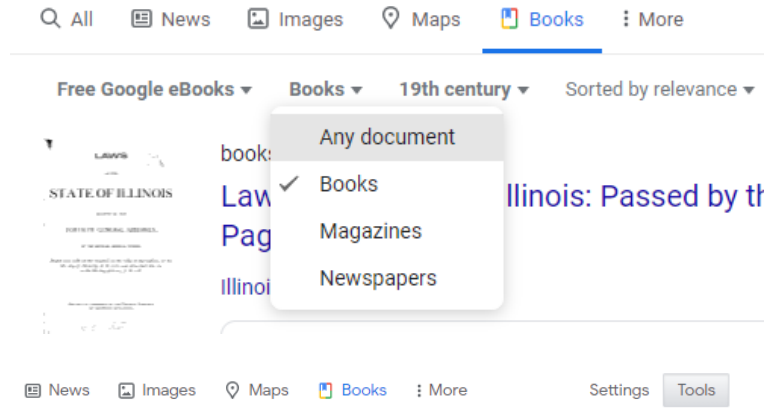
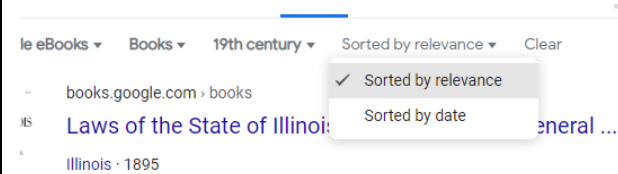
FOUND INSIDE - PAGE CXXVII
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I changed **Any time** to the **19th century**.

Searching Google Books

Change **Any Document** to the format you are looking for. I changed to **Books**.

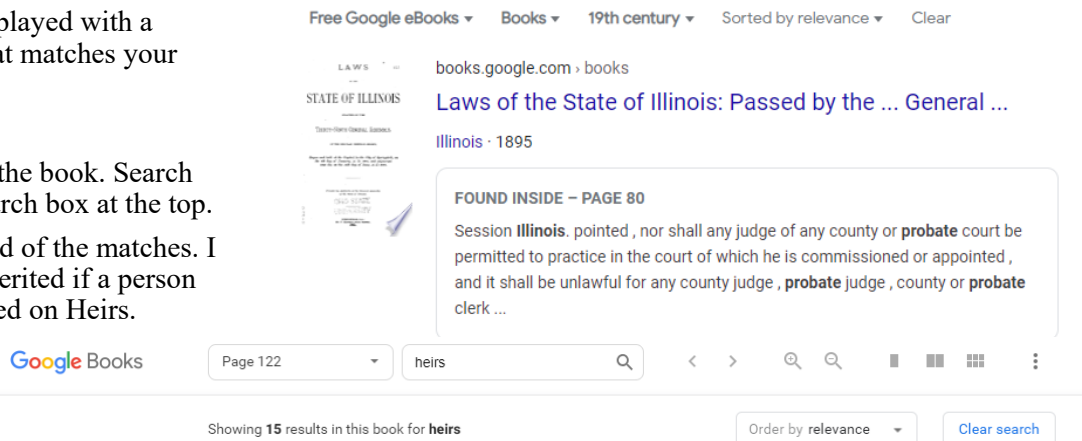
Sorted by relevance can be changed to **Sorted by date**.



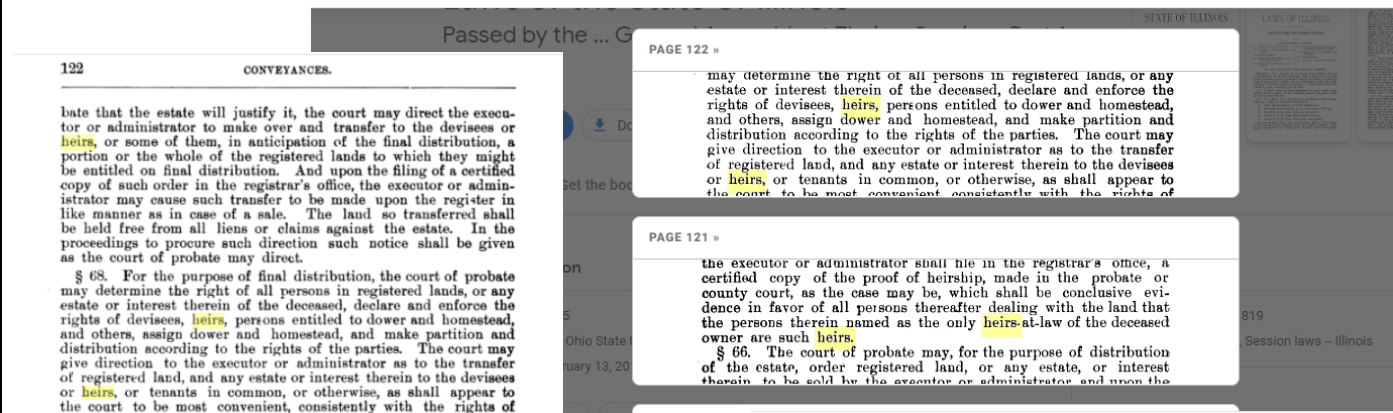
The search results are displayed with a preview of the content that matches your search terms.

Click on the title to open the book. Search within the book in the search box at the top.

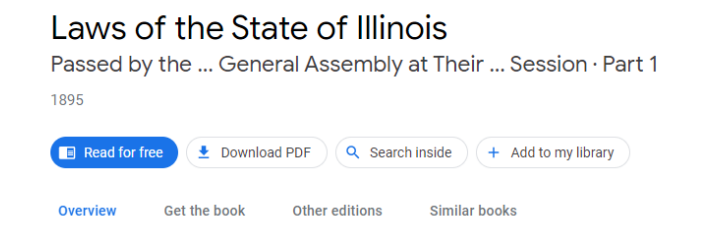
Previews will be displayed of the matches. I was interested in who inherited if a person died intestate, so I searched on Heirs.



Click on the preview to see the text.



Close the book using the X in the upper right corner to get back to the book title. Use the buttons to **Download PDF** of the book or **Add it to my library**. To add to your library you need to have a Google account. You can add shelves by subject or family. Saving it allows you to access it again without searching.



UK National Archives Free Digital Downloads

The Family History Federation held their second virtual Really Useful Family History Show on April 10th. Their talks focus on Great Britain and general research topics. In one session, "Wills pre-1858" the speaker talked about the structure of the courts and indexes available, each court can be in a separate index; the types of and parts of a will; jurisdictions; and online sources. I learned that copies of wills from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury are available on the National Archives website and right now they are not charging their normal fees.

The url is <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> go to Find Online Collections and filter by Wills and death duties. Search for the surname you are interested in and view the index entries. To take advantage of the free digital downloads you have to create an account. They have lots of other documents available as well. Spend some time searching the site this is a great opportunity for researchers with ancestors in the U.K.

Library of Congress Digital Collections

The Library of Congress website <https://www.loc.gov/> includes digital collections that can help us with our family history research including:

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers - search digital images of newspapers from 1777-1963. The US Newspaper Directory lists newspapers published between 1690-present. Use this to find the newspapers in your ancestors home town. If they aren't available online use the information to order through interlibrary loan.

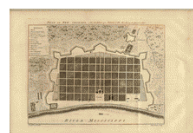
Cities and Towns - includes 3,680 images and texts available online. The collection has maps (birdseye, Sanborn fire insurance, and atlases) photos, and texts. Search for the locations where your ancestors lived - try towns, cities, counties, and states.

COLLECTION
Cities and Towns
[About this Collection](#) [Collection Items](#)

Results: 1-25 of 3,680 | Refined by: [Part of: Cities and Towns](#) [Available Online](#)

Refine your results	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Available Online	3,680
<input type="radio"/> All Items	3,680
Original Format	
Map	3,627
Photo, Print, Drawing	52
Book/Printed Material	1
Web Page	1
Online Format	
Image	3,678

Collection Items



MAP **Plan of New Orleans.**

Oriented with North to the right. Available also through the Library of Congress web site as a raster image.

Contributor: Pittman, Philip
Date: 1770

Check out all the other digital collections or search from the main page search engine for locations, occupations, surnames, etc.