



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

April 2008

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

[http:// www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl)

<http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghl>

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcolli3>

<http://genfriends.blogspot.com/>

Email Address: genfriends@tx.rr.com

Newsletter: Barbara Coakley newsletter@genealogyfriends.org

Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2008. Meetings are held in the Program Room at the Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd., Plano, TX from 10:15 to 12:30:

Today's Topics:

April 19, 2008—Naomi Taplin from the Texas Baptist Historical Collection will speak to use about Preservation Techniques.

Future Topics:

May—Lynne Darrouzet will speak to us on Organizing Your Genealogy

June—Richard Preston will speak to us about Migration Patterns. Ever wondered what route your ancestor took or why they moved from one place to another? Come listen to Richard for some potential answers.

July—David Hardin from the Haggard Library will be speaking on the Genealogy Collection and the online resources available at the library. We have access to a wonderful collection right here in Plano, come learn more about it.

August—"Beginning Genealogy" by Barbara Coakley. Whether you are truly a beginner or just want a "back to basics" refresher this class is for you.

September—"Convict Ancestors from England" by Dr. Steven Butler. Dr Butler spoke to us last year about the Mexican War, we are excited to have him back to educate us on a really interesting topic.

October—Dr. Jacob Blosser will speak to us about the History of Religions in America. Dr Blosser is an Assistant Professor of History at Texas Women's University.

November—Bryan Lean, the curator of Collections and Exhibits at the North Texas History Center will be speaking to us about the collection.

December—Show and Tell.

If you have suggestions for programs please submit them to Jean Funk at jeano25@aol.com.

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts

Be one of the best-dressed genealogists in town. Order your Gen Friends logo t-shirt or sweatshirt now. The shirts have a 3" logo printed on the left chest. Shirts are available in white, natural, or ash gray with a dark green logo.

T-shirts are \$12.00 for toddler through XL and \$14.00 for XXL and XXXL

Sweatshirts are \$17.00 for toddler through XL and \$19.00 for XXL and XXXL

Websites

Learn about Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps at the University of California Berkley website.

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/EART/sanborn.html>

The Library of Congress website contains bibliographies and reference guides. You may not be able to visit Washington, DC but you can use this to find sources to order through Interlibrary Loan at the reference desk of the Haggard Library.

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/bibhome.html>

Polish and Danzig directories are searchable on the Database of Historical Directories.

<http://www.dbhd.org/search.php>

Migration paths across the US are described at Frontier Trails

<http://www.americanwest.com/trails/>

American Migration Patterns

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gentutor/migration.html>

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
Military Investigations: Red, White & Blue	\$10
Colonial Ills, Brews & Concoctions	\$10
Library 101: Using Dewey Decimal Sys	\$10
Compiled Newsletters with Index	\$15

Tracing Our Roots Column

The "Tracing Our Roots" column written by Brenda Kellow appears each Sunday in the 'PULSE' or 'ENTERTAINMENT' section of the Plano Insider newspaper, and in Star Community newspapers throughout North Texas.

Visit the Plano Insider web site is

<http://www.planoinsider.net/> and click on either PULSE or ENTERTAINMENT to read the weekly column. Each column is posted for one week only. The column and archives are posted at <http://www.geocities.com/TracingOurRoots>.

Genealogy Class Collin College

Intermediate Genealogy will be offered at Collin College (formerly CCCD) on Monday nights from July 7, 2008 to August 25, 2008 at Plano Senior High School. The Instructor will be Barbara Coakley. Register online at <http://www.cccd.edu/cs/areasofstudy/conted/index.html>

Sixth Annual Research Retreat—Salt Lake City

Join Gen Friends members on our Sixth Annual Research Retreat to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for the opportunity to use the vast resources of the largest genealogical library in the world—microfilm, microfiche, books, and CDs from all over the world. The book collection of the Family History Library does not circulate, you have to visit Salt Lake City to use the huge collection of family histories, county histories, maps, reference books, and published records. If you haven't been there this is a great way to learn your way around. If you have, you can research in the company of fellow genealogy enthusiasts.



November 11-November 16, 2006

The \$80.00 Retreat Fee includes:

- Pre-Trip Seminar on August 9, 2008 from 10:00-12:00 at Haggard Library on Research at the Family History Library and Planning Your Research
- Library Orientation by FHL Staff on the afternoon of November 11th
- Seminar from a Professional Genealogist in Salt Lake City
- Block of Hotel Rooms has been reserved at the Salt Lake Plaza
- Individual and Group Consultations with Experienced Genealogists

Registration Deadline is October 15, 2008. If you have questions, please email Barbara Coakley at newsletter@genealogyfriends.org.

Immigrant Ships

Lloyd's insured many of the ships our ancestors traveled on when they came to the U.S. The *Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping* from 1764 to 2003 has been transcribed. This will provide information about the ship—rigging, tonnage, dimensions, propulsion, owner and her Master.

<http://www.reach.net/~sc001198/Lloyds.htm>

Civil War Resource

Alexander Street Press is offering free access to its Civil War Collections through April 30th. The databases include Letters and Diaries, Newspapers and Magazines, two databases of music and songs, and a research database. Normally you have to access these collections through a local library.

<http://alexanderstreet.com/resources/civilwar.access.htm>

Timeline

Who What When allows you to create a timeline for the life of your ancestor(s).

<http://www.sbrowning.com/whowhatwhen/>

Legacy Users Group

Joanne Corney started a Legacy Family Tree users group. The group will meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Haggard Library in the Program Room from 10:30 to 12:30. Contact Joanne at ptxlegacyug@verizon.net for more information.

Genealogy Societies: Why Should I Bother?

By Barbara Coakley

Should I join a Genealogy Society? Which Ones? Why? These are all questions that I wondered about as I embarked on discovering my family history many years ago. I found that belonging to different societies had varying benefits. There are three types of societies—Local, Locations where you are researching and National Societies.

Local Genealogy Societies

Even if you aren't lucky enough to live close to the areas where your ancestors lived, local genealogy societies can be a great resource. Becoming an active member of a local Genealogy Society is a great idea.

Finding Education Opportunities—Local Societies can offer opportunities to build your skills as a genealogist. Understanding the basic principles are universal. As more and more records become available on the internet, you can do more from the comfort of your own home. Local Societies are a great resource for learning ways to use these sources and how to become more efficient. It is true that each location is different and you need to understand the records available for that area. Most major areas have user groups for the various genealogy programs. See the section on societies in areas you are researching. It is easier and less expensive if you take advantage of lectures and classes in your area.

Networking—Local Societies are a great way to meet other researchers. Who knows someone may even be researching the same location or better yet, family that you are. Even if they aren't their experiences may help you. It is a great way to find someone to help with that brick wall, bounce ideas off of, or to help with that computer problem you are having. Imagine spending time with someone who really cares about your latest find, instead of smiling, nodding, and their eyes glazing over just after you begin to explain the effort it took and the excitement you felt.

Volunteer Opportunities—Giving back to the genealogy community is very rewarding. Think about how grateful you are when you find an index of newspaper articles for the area you are searching or a listing of a local cemetery. Where would we all be without the effort of volunteers all over the world. You can help out someone who lives in another area and can't travel to where you live or someone who lives down the street by participating in projects that your local society undertakes. Volunteering to take a picture of a house, school, or tombstone for someone else, it might even help you when you need someone to do the same for you in some other area. Writing articles for the newsletter or quarterly on genealogy techniques you used in your research would be of interest to your local society even if the area you are researching is far away.

Genealogy Societies in the Areas Where Your Ancestors Lived

Societies that focus on areas where your ancestor lived may be large or small. There are some like the New England Historic Genealogical Society that have websites full of information, publish scholarly journals, sponsor research trips to various places and put on week long conferences on research in New England. Others are very small, but have newsletters or websites that are packed full of important information about the area your ancestors lived in. Historical Societies are great sources for social history about the area your ancestor lived in. Don't forget state level societies as well as regional and county level societies. They can all be valuable sources in the following areas:

Local Experts—Members of societies in the areas you are researching are experts in research in that location, even if they don't live there. Many societies have compiled guides to research in their area. If you need to understand local history, what records are available and where to find them—what better group of people to help you?

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Genealogy Societies (continued)

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Research Help—Check the society in the area where you need someone to copy a probate file, take a picture of a tombstone, or check a deed index. If there isn't someone in the society who can help, they will most likely know of a professional researcher who specializes in the area. Societies can be a great resource for help at a reasonable cost.

Publications—The newsletter or quarterly can be full of wonderful information about sources you might want to access. They can also contain indexes to records. You can submit queries or respond to queries posted by other researchers to connect with others who are researching the same families. Many active societies have published indexes of local cemeteries, abstracted court records or newspapers, etc. They may also have valuable items on their websites.

Volunteer Opportunities—You don't always have to be in the location to work on a project. There may be records that you could index or transcribe from home. You can write articles for the society newsletter or quarterly. This is a great way to get your research out there for others to see. Someone else researching your family might read it and contact you.

Education Opportunities—Planning a trip to coincide with a society meeting or seminar is a great way to meet the people who have been helping you or that you have been corresponding with. It is also a great way to learn about research, records, etc. in the area where your ancestor lived.

National Societies

Most national genealogy societies put on national conferences, publish newsletters and/or quarterlies, maintain websites with lists of events, databases of information, put on education classes, and sponsor research trips. They can be made of diverse groups doing research in locations around the world or might focus on one nationality, religion, etc. Two of the biggest are The National Genealogical Society (NGS) and Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS). They offer benefits in many areas:

Education Opportunities—NGS offers courses in Genealogy Research. Both NGS and FGS hold national conferences in a different city every year. NGS often holds one day seminars in cities across the country as well. The conferences are a great opportunity to meet other researchers, learn about what's new in genealogy, visit vendors who publish books, computer software, etc., and learn from the best minds in the field. It is great if you can combine a trip to an ancestor's home with a conference.

Publications—NGS offers both a magazine and quarterly journal. Articles in the journal are a great source to learn about techniques. Check out the footnotes to see what sources were used. Study how a case was made using indirect evidence.

Volunteer Opportunities—All societies need volunteers to remain viable. You could introduce a speaker at a conference or staff an information booth. Write an article for the newsletter or journal—what a great way to have your work critiqued and get exposure to others researching the same family.

It doesn't matter where the society is or what the focus of the society is you can learn things and make a contribution. It takes active, engaged members to keep any society running and growing. Volunteering is a fantastic way to increase your knowledge. It is also very rewarding, you get back what you contribute many times over. What have you done lately to help one of the societies you belong to?

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities with Gen Friends contact genfriends@tx.rr.com. We are currently looking for volunteers to help index the Plano Star Courier. We will show you what needs to be done. You can work in the library or at home.

Irish Research Simplified

By Brenda Kellow, BA

Tradition has Catholics wearing green and Protestants dressing in orange. Are you really Irish or do you just get caught up in the festivities of that day?

Does Saint Patrick's Day remind you that you need to search Irish records to prove you are Irish? For those of us whose families have told us we are Irish—or Scots-Irish—it's time to prove or disprove this legend. And with the wealth of information appearing on the Internet it is possible to find documents to verify your heritage. Many of the databases charge a fee, while some are free.

Irish research can be overwhelming. We've all heard that many of the records are no longer extant either by government mandate or by fire. Not true. There are searchable records in Ireland that should be approached as though it were two different countries north and south—one catholic and the other protestant. There are two Home Rule parliaments—Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to the south. Many churches recorded births, marriages and sometimes burials, but civil registration of births, deaths and Roman Catholic marriages did not begin for all of Ireland in 1864; however, Protestants began recording their marriages in 1845. A caveat to this is the lack of a national index to church registers, the sporadic survival of church records prior to 1820, limited published cemetery inscriptions, and the limited number of wills left by the nation's poor.

In 1821 Ireland began taking censuses every decade. Except for fragments the earliest extant census today is 1901. It is necessary to search census substitutes such as Griffith's Primary Valuation of Ireland, Tithe Applotment Survey, Old Age Pension Records, Hearth Money Rolls and muster rolls naming principal landowners and eligible men as prospective soldiers. Census substitutes are limited because they show only the names of the heads of householders.

The basis for Irish research is the seven geographical Irish administration divisions: provinces; counties; baronies; parishes; townlands; Poor Law Union; and the Probate District.

To insure results, the starting place is here—with the family. By conducting a surname search you can determine whether the surname is indeed Irish which makes it easier to unlock the origin from where on the Emerald Isle the emigrant came. Check your prior research and listen to family folklore if you are so lucky as to have someone living who can provide this information.

Irish research need not be overwhelming. Knowing that over 70 million Irish immigrated over a 300-year period is encouraging. Another plus is the amount of records coming online. You do not need a tome to study before you begin research. The timely release of the 52-page publication, Basic Guide to Irish Records for Family History has up to date sources and Internet addresses for conducting online research. Brian Mitchell packs valuable information and hints inside to aide in lessening the degree of difficulty for searching the Emerald Isle.

The eight major sources mandatory for finding these lost souls, according to Mitchell, is introduced in his publication which cuts through all the fat and gets right to the meat for proving your Irish ancestry.

Civil registers of births, marriages and deaths



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Irish Research Simplified (continued)

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Church registers of baptisms, marriages and burials

Gravestone Inscriptions

Wills

1901 and 1911 census returns

Mid nineteenth-century Griffith's Valuation

Early nineteenth-century Tithe Applotment Books

Other census substitutes

Mitchell continues by examining each of these sources and names the five national repositories where genealogists can examine these records. They are the General Register Office, the National Archives of Ireland, and the National Library of Ireland located in Dublin, and the General Register Office and Public Record Office of Ireland located in Belfast. He strongly suggests searching these before hunting further. Toward the back of the book he includes all the contact information for these five repositories.

Throughout the book he discusses the documentation found in these repositories followed by the Internet address and often includes a graphic. He also lists a substantial bibliography as a foundation for the best sources available in 2008.

The frustration encountered in hunting Irish ancestors can be like searching for a needle in a haystack without proper groundwork. Mitchell's book certainly illustrates this foundation. It is necessary for beginning the quest to prove you really are Irish.

The Basic Guide to Irish Records for Family History by Brian Mitchell is \$14.95 from Clearfield Company, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, Maryland 21211, phone 410-837-8271, www.genealogical.com. Postage and handling is \$4 for the first book and \$2 for each additional book.



Bonnie & Clyde & Collin County

By Joy Gough

Bonnie and Clyde were outlaws during the Depression. Their exploits were known nationwide. They have been romanticized in many movies. At the time in American history when breadlines, unemployment, foreclosures and soup kitchens were the norm, the American people blamed big business and the government for their problems. Bonnie and Clyde were looked upon as a Robin Hood-like couple striking blows against big business and an uncaring government. They are still popular American Culture icons.

Both Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were born in Texas. Their families eventually settled in West Dallas where the couple met. The "Barrow Gang" went through Collin County many times and committed some crimes in the county. At times members of the Gang were in the Collin County jail or prison.

There are many stories of Bonnie and Clyde and members of their gang, passing through Collin County on their way to and from Dallas. Sometimes the county sheriff set up ambushes for them. On other occasions when people reported seeing them, the sheriff was too busy to go looking for them at that time. He would begin his search an hour or two later.

"Sarge" Stimpson, Jr., who grew up near the intersection of present-day Preston Road and Spring Creek Parkway, remembers one occasion when a couple came to his parents' house asking if they could spend the night. Their car had broken down on Preston Road and could not be towed until the next day. In those days people gave refuge to those who were stranded. The couple had supper with the Stimpson family and spent the night. They were said to be very nice and polite and friendly. They left some money under the pillow when they left the next morning. It was not until after they had left that someone told the Stimpsons they were Bonnie and Clyde.

The so-called Barrow Gang consisted of members of the Barrow family, plus the Hamilton brothers, Ray and Floyd, and Ralph Fults, and a few others. The Hamiltons were neighbors of the Barrows in Dallas. Ralph Fults was from Anna in Collin County. His father was a postman in McKinney.

In January of 1932, Ralph Fults had been released from state prison and was staying with his parents in McKinney. He was waiting for the release of Clyde Barrow from the state prison. As he was walking by the Collin County prison, someone told him that a friend of Clyde's was incarcerated there. Eighteen-year-old Raymond Hamilton was in prison awaiting arraignment on auto theft charges. After talking to Hamilton for a few minutes, Fults said he would send him some magazines. Fults sent a stack of magazines to Hamilton the next day with three hack-saw blades in the bindings. Raymond became very talkative while he was using the blades on the bars of his cell. Shortly before daybreak on January 27, 1932, Raymond Hamilton escaped from the Collin County prison. Clyde Barrow received a conditional pardon by the state of Texas on February 2.

On the night of April 20, 1932 Clyde Barrow and two members of his gang robbed a gun store in Celina in Collin County. The town's night watchman asked the three men what they were doing on the town square at 11:45. The three men knocked him unconscious. They took him and the Celina mayor to the railroad yard where they locked them in an empty boxcar. The three men pried the lock on the rear door of what they thought was the hardware store. Upon entering the building, they discovered they were in the drug store. Leaving everything in the store undisturbed, they moved to the building next door. Once inside, they found the back wall lined with rifles and shotguns. Each burglar took a load of weapons and a case of ammunition to their car. About that time the alarm was sounded by a boy who spotted them. The trio drove away to their hideout near Lake Dallas.



Bonnie & Clyde (continued)

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In December of 1932 Ralph Fults was in the Collin County prison on charges of stealing a car in Farmersville. He received a visit on the 19th from Bonnie Parker. She presented him with a pack of cigarettes saying Clyde was going to help him escape that night. Fults said because of the guards, it would have to be in the morning. However, at 4 AM, the prison wagon arrived early to take the prisoners to Huntsville. The escape did not happen.

After spending time in the Eastham unit of the state prison, Clyde Barrow was determined to raid the prison and release his fellow inmates from the horrible conditions and the brutal guards. A lot of preparation went into obtaining weapons and vehicles for the raid. The raid on the state prison occurred on January 16, 1934. It brought the full force of the Texas and federal governments together to kill, not capture, the outlaws. It also started an investigation into the brutality at the prison. The prison superintendent eventually resigned.

Bonnie and Clyde were killed on May 23, 1934 in Bienville Parish, Louisiana. Both are buried in Dallas in separate cemeteries. Members of their gang remained at large..

On February 24, 1935, Raymond Hamilton and Ralph Fults were returning to McKinney after a night in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A McKinney constable knew of their return and set up an ambush at a culvert on the road to Weston. Even though the constable had been told to wait for reinforcements, he decided to capture the pair on his own. He was highly ridiculed for his mishandling of the ambush.

On that day in February the weather was cold and sleet was falling. Visibility was poor. Hamilton and Fults sensed trouble and sped up. Near the culvert the constable and five others opened fire. After a lot of gunfire from both sides, Hamilton and Fults made it through the ambush, injured but mobile. They continued on their way with their car full of holes and their gas running low. They took two drivers they met along the road to Weston as hostages.

When road conditions got too bad, the group decided to stop for the night. The house of Bill Mayes was picked for their hideout. In the house were Mr. Mayes with his wife Sally, and their son Roy Mayes with his wife Cecil and his infant daughter. Raymond assured the family that they were not going to hurt anyone. They were just staying until the next morning when the weather got better. The men were fed and their wounds were treated by Mrs. Mayes.

At 6 AM the next day the fugitives decided to leave and take three hostages - L. B. Harlow and J. C. Loftice (the two young men they had taken hostage the day before) and Bill Mayes. Roy Mayes volunteered saying his father was a bad driver on icy roads. Raymond Hamilton apologized to Mrs. Mayes for not being able to pay her for her hospitality.

With Roy Mayes at the wheel of his father's 1929 Chevy, they drove toward Celina and then Lake Dallas, where they stopped for gas. There they read the newspaper account of the ambush the day before. Around 9:30 they stopped at a diner in Fort Worth where they stole a car. About 2 PM near the town of Mansfield, the hostages were released to return to Weston in the Mayes' car. Hamilton gave them \$2 for gas.

Eventually all of the members of the Barrow gang were arrested and tried. Raymond Hamilton was executed by the state of Texas. Ralph Fults was sentenced to death by the state, but for some reason the sentence was never carried out. He and Floyd Hamilton returned to society after serving time for their crimes. Floyd worked at a car dealership in Dallas for many years.

Sources:http://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonnie_and_Clyde and *RUNNING WITH BONNIE AND CLYDE: THE TEN FAST YEARS OF RALPH FULTS*, John Neal Phillips, 1996, University of Oklahoma Press.