



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
April 2009

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

[http:// www.genealogyfriends.org](http://www.genealogyfriends.org)

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

Email Address: genfriends@genealogyfriends.org Newsletter: Barbara Coakley newsletter@genealogyfriends.org

Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2009. Meetings are held in the Program Room at the Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd., Plano, TX from 10:15 to 12:30:

Today's Topic:

April 18, 2009—All Day Seminar—Naomi Taplin and Alan Lafever from the Texas Baptist Historical Collection will be doing an all day seminar on preserving family artifacts. See Page 2 for program details.

Future Topics:

May 16, 2009—David and Paula Pitts will speak to us about Planning a Family Reunion.

June 20, 2009—Robert Deen will speak to us about Land Records Research

July 18, 2009—Marjorie McMenemy will speak to us about her research.

July 25, 2009—Learn 'N—Lynne Darrouzet is our speaker. She'll be presenting a case study on tracing neighbors and associates in Colonial Virginia and being able to infer relationships from that when there is no other evidence. The second hour there will be volunteers to help you take advantage of the extensive collection of Virginia sources available in the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

August 15, 2009—Leo Baca will speak to use about DNA.

September 19, 2009—Brenda Kellow will speak to us about researching the Census before 1850.

October 17, 2009—"City Directories, Newspapers, and Obituaries with the Census as Your Guide," by Barbara Coakley.

October 24, 2009—Learn 'N—We'll celebrate Halloween with talks on Cemeteries and Death Records.

November 21, 2009—Tresa Tatyrek will be speaking to us on Using the Internet for researching your Genealogy.

December 19, 2009—Show and Tell, come and share your Ancestors' stories with the group.

January 11-17, 2010—Research trip to Salt Lake City. Save the date and stay tuned for more details.

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

Preserving Our Precious Heirlooms

Speakers: Naomi Taplin and Alan Lefever of the Texas Baptist Historical Collection

Program Schedule

- 9:30—10:00 Registration
- 10:00—10:45 Getting Started in Preservation and Restoration
- 10:45– 11:00 Break
- 11:00—11:45 Preserving Paper Memories
- 11:45—12:45 Lunch
- 12:45– 1:00 Door Prizes
- 1:00—1:45 Photographic Preservation
- 1:45—2:00 Break
- 2:00—3:00 Other Valuable Family Items

Door Prizes

Thanks to the following companies who donated door prizes:

\$25 Avon Gift Certificate from Pam Schilling

2 Books from Genealogy Publishing Company—<http://www.genealogical.com/>

Archival Document Case from The Hollinger Corporation—<http://www.hollingercorp.com/>

Legacy Family Tree Software—Millennia Corporation—<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/>

Calendars—Southwest Regional Archives—<http://www.archives.gov/southwest/>

Gift Certificate for Online Class—National Institute for Genealogical Studies -<http://www.genealogicalstudies.com/>

Also thanks to Joy Gough and Jean Funk for their donations.

If you patronize these businesses please let them know you heard about them at this Gen Friends Seminar.

In Search Of Eunice

By Paula Knape, 2009

I hope you'll get numerous responses from your readers that illuminate the lives of women whose stories have never been told--many were the unsung heroes of family histories.

When I inherited a number of pictures from my late mother, I had no idea the adventure these photos would provide. Among the family treasures was a picture of a young woman whose expression seemed to say "Please discover my story." The photo appeared quite old, given the style of clothing, and after referencing a book on photographic dating, appears to have been taken well before 1900. There were a few scribbled notes on her, but not much more than her identity—Eunice Griffin—and that she was born somewhere in Georgia.

While researching the numerous branches of the Griffin families residing in Georgia, I luckily discovered a book entitled "Mississippi Court Records, from the Files of the High Court of Errors and Appeals 1799-1859". Although the divergence from searching through Georgia records to those of Mississippi seems odd, I knew that at least some of Eunice's children were born in that state. In the index of this book were the names of Eunice and her husband, Jesse Miller. Apparently the two brought suit against the estate of Jeremiah Griffin of Georgia and included other unfamiliar names associated with the suit. I felt this was more than a coincidental connection with this Griffin family and pursued further information on them. Jeremiah Griffin's will list his heirs, but Eunice was not among them. At this time I discovered that Jeremiah's wife was also named "Eunice". Although I was uncertain as to "my" Eunice's date of birth (c. 1818-1822), the range could allow for her to be Jeremiah and Eunice Callaway Griffin's daughter. After examining information on the Griffin heirs, I felt there had to be a connection, but was simply at a loss to explain their relationship to my ancestor. For some time I thought perhaps she was a daughter who was disowned by this family, which could possibly explain the lawsuit. Jeremiah Griffin was a planter, as well as the owner of supposedly the first gold mines found in Georgia around 1823 (even predating the discovery of the Dahlonega Mine). He is also said to have invented the first gold stamp mill which is purported to be at the Smithsonian Institute.

I accepted at face value the information I found regarding children of Griffin family members and didn't question the accuracy. After many discouraging weeks of searching, I remained convinced that there was a connection here. While combing through microfilm records of Columbia County, Georgia, loaned through the Family History Center, I experienced the breakthrough I had long hoped for. In the Probate Court Minutes were documents pertaining to one of Jeremiah Griffin's sons, John. As I made my way through the division of John Griffin's estate, there it was! "...one sixth part to Isaac W. Jones, in right of his wife, Eunice J., formerly Eunice J. Griffin..."!!! I previously knew that Eunice was the widow of Isaac W. Jones and that she subsequently married Jesse S. Miller. The amazing thing is that I almost didn't read through John Griffin's estate provisions! So the reference I made earlier about not questioning the accuracy of information is monumental here. The data previously found that listed John's "children" actually belongs to another branch of Georgia Griffin's. In addition to the discovery that John and Ann Griffin were Eunice's parents, and Jeremiah and Eunice Callaway Griffin, her grandparents, I also found the names of her siblings as well. This information was so emotionally moving that tears streamed down my cheeks upon its discovery—at last, the puzzle pieces fit.

Unfortunately, other court documents I found that were not quite as elating. Among microfilm records from Mississippi Court minutes, I also discovered that Eunice's brother, John R. Griffin, was charged in the murder of her husband, Jesse Miller, in 1854, and a subsequent trial found him "not guilty". How difficult this situation must have been for Eunice—twice widowed with six living children from both marriages, who later endured the hardships brought on by Civil War. Despite all this, she went on to marry twice more (both to Civil War veterans) before her death in 1901. I think there may have been a little "Scarlett" in my Eunice, and somehow I believe the comparison would have pleased her.

Education Opportunities

13th annual Angelina College Genealogy Conference
Lufkin (Angelina County) Texas

Thursday, Friday & Saturday: July 16-17-18, 2009

For full information and registration form, visit us at

<http://www.angelina.edu/genealogy.htm>

In addition to the 'mix & match' of Friday and Saturday (20 sessions), note the two all-day specials on Thursday (Writing Your Family History and a session on immigration & naturalization) and the three all-day specials on Saturday (cemeteries, courthouse research, and DNA).

Pharos website offers online classes in Genealogy.

Instructors are professional genealogists led by Sherry Irvine. <http://www.pharostutors.com/>

Collin College Classes

Barbara Coakley will be teaching Genealogy II at Collin College. Class will be held June 1, 2009 to July 20, 2009 on Monday nights from 6:30 to 9:00 at the Courtyard Center.

Genealogy Research on the Internet will be held on Saturday mornings from 9-12 at the Courtyard Center, July 11, July 25, August 1, August 8, and August 22, 2009.

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

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>.

Volunteer to Index

The Family History Center is digitizing their materials and need our help. You can make a difference. Join over 150,000 volunteers who are indexing billions of records from around the world. Volunteer now at <http://familysearchindexing.org> and search the records that have been completed at <http://search.labs.familysearch.org>.

Private Family Trees

Want to share your family tree with relatives or work with other genealogists online? Check out FamilyPursuit.com. For an annual fee of \$59.95 you can upload photos and documents. Family members or fellow researchers can view your information for free if you invite them. Family Pursuit focuses on coordinating, collectin, organizing and sharing research efforts.

They also have Community Trees that are not secured and are free. <http://www.familypursuit.com/>

Legacy Users Group

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

Laying Corner Stone

By Joy Gough

IMPOSING CEREMONIES IN HONOR OF MCKINNEY'S NEW RELIGIOUS EDIFICE.

The Order of The Big Parade.

The Civic Organization That Participated—

An Address by Judge Tom Brown—A Very Enjoyable Time.

Daily Courier-Gazette, August 12, 1897.

McKinney Tex., Aug. 5—The cornerstone of the First Christian church was laid here to-day with imposing ceremonies.



Promptly at 10 o'clock a. m., at tap of the city bell, a procession of Sunday school children started from the Baptist church on South Tennessee street. The following churches were represented and marched each under charge of its superintendent, in the order named: Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Cumberland Presbyterian, Episcopal and Christian, preceded by the city brass band and followed by the ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star. To the uninitiated it will be necessary to say that each of "the five points" was represented by appropriate colors, thus: The white ray by a carriage draped in white and five lady occupants also in white. The other rays, red, yellow, blue and green, were represented, while the carriage for the officers and its occupants were decorated in purple white and gold. As soon as the rear of the procession reached the southeast corner of the square the Masonic body was ready to fall in, having previously marched from their lodge room forming on East Louisiana street, and observed the following order: 1. Master Masons; 2. R. A. Masons; 3. Knights Templar; 4. Grand lodge officers, after which the fire department joined in, consisting of five trucks tastefully trimmed in the colors of the Order of the Eastern Star, out of compliment to the ladies of that order. The fire boys, to the number of about fifty, made a very imposing appearance. They are all volunteers and the very best young men of the town. Their banding together for the purpose of protecting the homes and property of their neighbors argues energy and courage.

A large number of citizens in their carriages swelled the procession into the largest ever seen in this city. The Houston and Texas Central railway and the Sherman, Shreveport and Southern railway ran special trains, and brought large-Masonic delegations, while the rich and populous country round about poured in to do honor to the occasion.

When the head of the procession reached the building after parading the square and principal streets it opened ranks and thus the grand officers and official ladies reached the platform where the cornerstone was laid in due and ancient form by the following representatives of the grand lodge of Texas: E. H. Bowlby, G. M.; John Church, D. G. M.; H. E. Smith, S. G. W.; John D. Page, J. G. W.; W. B. Newsome, G. T.; R. F. Dowell, G. S.; S. K. Hallam, G. C.; W. M. Abernathy, G. M.; John W. Hamilton, P. A.; and C. H. Wysong, G. J.

Judge W. K. Homan of Dallas, orator of the day, delivered a short address, congratulating the people on the intense interest manifested on the occasion of laying the cornerstone of a temple dedicated to the worship of Almighty God, dwelling on the importance of laying a proper foundation and discussing the underlying principles and the wonderful growth of the organization for which the building was being erected.

At the conclusion a representative of each point of the (Eastern) Star laid a bouquet of corresponding color upon the stone, repeating the words: "Peace be to this house," and Elder Hallam closed the proceedings with an appropriate prayer.

Among the deposits were: A roll of the officers and members of the church, engrossed on parchment, numbering

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Laying Corner Stone (continued)

(Continued from page 5)

306; a similar roll of the membership of St. John's lodge No. 51, being 111 members; a list of the contributors to the structure; lists of Sunday schools and Christian Endeavor societies; copies of the Christian Courier of Dallas, and other church papers; copies of the county papers and of The Dallas Morning News of this date; a copy of the Holy Scriptures donated by St. John's Lodge, and a copy of the New Testament, which belonged to little Edwin Newsome, recently deceased, between the folds of which was the contribution for mission purposes which the little fellow had intended to give on the Sunday when he was stricken down. There was also deposited a photograph of the old building and history of the Christian church at McKinney since its organization in 1848, till the present time reads as follows:

The congregation was organized April 1, 1848, by Elder J. B. Wilmeth, for many years county and district clerk of Collin county. The meeting at which the church was organized was probably held in a new barn. The meetings were afterwards held in the court house, and later in a schoolhouse under the Masonic hall, on the lot now occupied by the residence of Jesse Shain.

During this period the congregation was ministered to by J. B. Wilmeth, Dr. Cartwright, J. Gough Jones and B. F. Hall, with some regularity. In 1859 the first house of worship was erected on the lot now occupied by the pastor's cottage. In 1878 this building was torn down and repaired, and it having been injured in a cyclone, was again remodeled in 1879. In this house the congregation had continued to worship to the present time.

From 1858 to 1876 the pulpit was supplied by, B. F. Hall, James T. Muse, T. W. Caskey, C. M. Wilmeth, R. C. Horn, and perhaps others.

Occasional sermons were preached by many of the pioneer preachers of Texas, among whom are still remembered Brothers Clark and Polly.

Since 1877 the church has been continuously served by the following pastors for the time indicated: Kirk Baxter 77,78; Elder Skiles 79, 80; J. B. Faulkner 81, 82, 83; C. W. Sewell 84, 85, 86; J. P. Pinkerton 87, 88, 89; D. W. Pritchett 90, 91, 92; A. P. Terrell 93, 94; S. W. Crutcher 95, 96; and the present incumbent since Jan. 1, 1897.

In 1872 a notable meeting was conducted by Gen. R. M. Gano of Dallas, during which there were more than fifty conversions, among them Brother R. C. White one of the present elders. Meetings have been held at various times by Addison and Randolph Clark, J. M. Tennison, J. J. Lockhart, B. B. Saunders and Frank Talmage. It was in Bro. Lockhart's meeting, during the pastorate of D. W. Pritchett, that I. D. Newsome, whose liberality with that of his sons has made the building possible, was added to the church. His two sons had been members of the church several years before. Immediately upon entering on his work the present pastor began agitating the question of a new house of worship in keeping with the wealth and influence of the congregation and the needs of the Master's work. Frequent conferences were held with influential brethren on the subject. During a meeting held by the pastor in March, 1897, the house was not large enough on several occasions to accommodate the audience. I. D. Newsome and sons, after carefully considering the matter, proposed to build for the church a house of worship to cost about \$14,000 on the condition that the congregation would raise a sufficient amount to lift the incumbrance on lot, remodel the dwelling house thereon for the pastor's residence, and to furnish the house when completed, furniture to include a pipe organ and furnaces for heating. The proposition was accepted and a committee consisting of J. L. White, Plummer Harris and the pastor was appointed to raise the necessary funds. On the second Lord's day in April \$7000 had been pledged, and it was announced that the building would be erected. The subscription has since been increased to \$8000, including the proceeds of the sale of the old parsonage. The building and furniture alone will cost about \$20,000. The entire property of the church is estimated to be worth \$25,000. A list of the contributors with the amounts given is placed in the corner stone. J. L. White headed it with \$750, D. C. Hill and L. H. Graves each gave \$500, while Jesse Shain gave \$1000 to be applied toward the purchase

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Laying Corner Stone (continued)

of the organ. But others with equal liberality in proportion to their means gave as a free will of offering to the Lord. Those who have made the larger offerings as well as the brethren who have built the church feel that their brethren and sisters who have given so freely out of their poverty have done more than they. So that the humblest disciple that has done what he could is an equal partner with them in this noble work. The roll of officers and members, engrossed on parchment and placed in the corner stone, shows the membership to be 306 on Aug. 5, 1897.

Profoundly grateful to God, who has permitted us to celebrate the fiftieth year of our history as a church by erecting this magnificent building for his worship, we pray him that the coming years may be equally blessed in building of the spiritual edifice. To him be glory and honor throughout the age of ages. Amen!

The citizens of McKinney invited all present to a picnic dinner at the city park, where an address of welcome was delivered by Hon. J. M. Pearson, the mayor, and Judge T. J. Brown of the supreme court (of Texas) then delighted the people with a talk on old times, detailing many of the stirring reminiscences of early pioneer life.

The business men without exception closed their doors from 10 o'clock to 2 in order to participate, and every detail was carried out in the most happy manner. The munificent donation of the church building by I. D. Newsome and his two sons, the liberality of the church members and outsiders in contributing to the furnishing, heating and organ the spirit of good will and brotherly feeling manifested, all conspired to made the occasion one to be long and gratefully remembered by the citizens of McKinney.

CORNER STONE NOTES.

The extreme heat compelled a great many to seek their home for relief.

Little Miss Goldie Warden, sponsor of Hook and Ladder Co. No. 2, was the recipient of much attention during the parade.

His excellency Mayor J. M. Pearson and Hon. Tom Perkins formed a team of robust and respectable appearance which graced the parade.

The ceremonies of this occasion, under the auspices of St. John's Lodge, were the first corner stone laying, according to Masonic ceremony, ever performed in Collin county.

Quite a delegation from Tennehill Lodge, of Dallas, were present and took part in the corner stone laying exercised. They remained over night and attended the meeting of St. John's lodge.

Every one of the twelve lodges in the county, as well as representatives from various other North Texas lodges, were in the line of march. By common assent, this was the most notable event in Masonry in the history of Collin county.

Several old Masons present testified to the practical value of Masonry which none deny. Instances in their long careers were heard cited where life and property were rescued from the destroyer by the mysterious wand of this hoary order of antiquity.

A new epoch has evidently dawned upon the congregation that will worship in this new temple of God. Such a spirit seemed prevalent on this occasion in every breast, and the sentiment almost realized.

Hope shall change to glad fruition;

Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

The ladies are very grateful to the fire boys for decorating in Eastern Star colors out of respect for the order. The boys cannot be discounted for gallantry to the ladies, loyalty to the city and general efficiency for unpaid fire-fighters.

When the procession was waiting at the Baptist church for orders to move a quaint old couple from the rurals

Laying Corner Stone (continued)

came along the Dallas road on their way into town. Not being aware of the important event to come off in McKinney that day they were naturally surprised when they came in view of the long, gorgeous column lined up ready to march. The fire engine being in the rear attracted their attention first. Critically scanning the engine, the old fellow remarked to his spouse "that 'ar must be a music box." "Y-a-s," replied the old lady, "an' it's a powerful fine on' too." "You bet," came the ready assent and then they scrutinized the next in line which they pronounced "mity purty hen roosts." These were Hook and Ladder Wagons Nos. 1 and 2 so beautifully decorated in the Eastern Star colors. But the energetic fire boys are not to be blamed for feeling a little ruffled at these cruel, those innocent remarks. For 48 hours they worked faithfully in rubbing up the engine and tastefully arranging buntings and decorations, after which, then to have their engine dubbed a "music box" and their wagons "purty hen roots" - well it was provoking

The Eastern Stars were the central feature of the parade, though the whole was very creditable to Masons and others participating. The ladies of the order were borne in six carriages tastefully decorated in colors harmonizing with the costumes of their respective occupants. Four white horses drew the first carriage which was decorated in royal purple and white, and contained the following officers: Worthy Matron, Mrs. W. B. Newsome; Worthy Patron A. B. Carroll (the only gentleman occupant of any of the carriages); Past Worthy Matron, Mrs. Dr. T. W. Wiley; Past Worthy Matron, Mrs. J. L. Lovejoy. Second carriage, blue decorations, Misses Judith English, Lizzie Crouch, Kate Page, Mrs. Howell E. Smith, Mrs. W. E. Marshall. Third carriage, yellow decorations, Misses Mame Page, Joe B. Davis, Fannie Bagley, Nettie Barnes and Mrs. D. T. Pardue. Fourth carriage, white decorations, Miss Dora Barnes, Mesdames W. M. Abernathy, W. D. Davis, T. J. Melton, and Mrs. Dr. J. E. Gibson. Fifth carriage, green decorations, Misses Pearl Nelson, Fannie Abernathy, Mattie Dowell, Emma Walden, and Mrs. John Johnson, Jr. Sixth carriage, red decorations, Misses Ella B. Newsome, Bessie Nelson, Ollie Plemmons, Allie Dowell and Mrs. Dr. J. C. N. Smith. The effect produced by the charming ladies and beautiful decorated horses and carriages in the parade were truly a feast for the eye and cultured taste seldom enjoyed by the people of any town, and speak volumes for the energy of A. B. Carroll and Mrs. W. B. Newsome, under whose direction success crowned every detail of the affair and double met the most sanguine expectation.

Join Now

Individual memberships are \$30 and family memberships are \$50—funds go to purchase materials for the genealogy section at Haggard Library. Dues year runs from October 1 to September 31.

Online Databases

If you are considering spending your hard earned money on one or more online genealogy databases you might want to check out this article. It compares and rates some of the major sites.

<http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6643144.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