



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of  
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News  
August 2021

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

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## Schedule of Events

### We are holding our meetings via Zoom through September

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 (unless otherwise noted below). Invites will be send out the week before the meeting.

#### This Month

**August 21, 2021 - Zoom Meeting - "Context! How to Find It. How to Use It." by Jill Morelli.**

**Zoom meeting opens at 9:30. Speaker will start at 10:00 am.**

#### Future Events:

**September 2, 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.

**September 18, 2021 - Zoom Seminar - Judy Russell will be our speaker for two sessions. See the flyer for more information.**

**October 9, 2021 - Haggard Library - Change of Date due to Early Voting - Lynell Moss will share what is new on FamilySearch.**

**November 20, 2021 - Haggard Library - Program TBD**

**December 18, 2021 - Haggard Library - Show and Tell**

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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

**Collin College - Genealogy Online Research CRN 71713** will be offered via Zoom Wednesday's from 6:30 to 9 pm September 8 to October 13, 2021. Students will learn to use websites that can further their family history research. Instructor Barbara Coakley.

[https://vssb.collin.edu/PROD/baninst1.CC\\_S\\_CEWEB\\_VIEW.courseInfo?pageid=GENE6810](https://vssb.collin.edu/PROD/baninst1.CC_S_CEWEB_VIEW.courseInfo?pageid=GENE6810)

**Ancestry** changed their terms of service. Read Judy Russel's posts on her blog The Legal Genealogist about the changes and decide what you want to share on your tree. <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2021/08/06/ancestry-retreats/>

**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.

There are virtual lectures almost every day listed on Conferencekeeper.org. <https://conferencekeeper.org/>

**The Virginia Genealogical Society Fall 2021 Virtual Conference** will be Friday and Saturday, October 15-16th. <https://vgs.org/cpage.php?pt=31>

Family History Federation's **Really Useful Family History Show** - November 12-13. Online event with sessions that focus on Research in Great Britain. <https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/>

**The New England Historic Genealogical Society** offers free webinars and online classes. Check their schedule at <https://www.americanancestors.org/education/online-classes>

**New Hampshire Society of Genealogists 2021 Virtual Fall Conference**, On The Road Again, featuring Joshua Taylor will be October 23rd <https://www.nhsog.org/events>

**RootsTech** will be virtual in 2022 - Save the date - March 3-5th.

In place of the **GreatFamily Search Conference** this year there will be ten zoom sessions that start on September 1st at 7 pm. See page 5 and 6 for details.

## Ashton Villa, Galveston, Texas

Submitted by Barbara Brogdon

Originally Published by Texas Historical Commission on Facebook

Ashton Villa in Galveston is reportedly the first brick home in Texas, constructed in 1858-59. One of the builders was an enslaved brick mason named Aleck.

The Victorian Italianate home was built for James Moreau Brown and his family. Brown made his fortune in the hardware business, and was a purchasing agent for the Confederate States of America.

During the Civil War, Ashton Villa served as a headquarters for the Confederate Army, with a brief interlude in 1862 when it was controlled by the Union Army. In June 1865, Galveston was under full Union control and the war had officially ended. According to some accounts, Ashton Villa was one of the locations at which Gen. Gordon Granger publicly read General Order No. 3, which officially began the process of ending slavery in Texas.

The home, which survived the catastrophic 1900 hurricane, remained in the ownership of Brown family descendants until 1927, when it was purchased by the Shriners as an office and event space. By 1968, the Shriners were prepared to sell the villa or, barring a sale, to demolish it for new construction.

The Galveston Historical Foundation raised funds to buy the building. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1969. On July 25, 1974, after a full restoration, Ashton Villa opened to the public as a historic house museum.



## Epidemics and Diseases

by Barbara Coakley

Just as covid has changed all of our lives diseases in the past effected our ancestors' lives. Discovering what was going on can help explain motives for actions our ancestors took. Think about the impact multiple deaths or the death of the breadwinner could have on a family. Consider the result of an epidemic on the economy and our ancestors.

Unfortunately, the cause of many diseases wasn't known, and the result was ineffective treatments. Some treatments actually aggravated the disease and resulted in the patient dying. Causes included poor hygiene, unclean environments, and even unsafe food practices. Bathing wasn't a regular practice until the late 1800's. Before refrigeration food spoiled.

I have been researching a couple that were married in St. Louis, Missouri in September 1849, the year of the worst cholera epidemic in the city. John H. and Louisa Struck lived in second ward where the rate of death per thousand people was 59.1, only the first ward had more deaths. "A Summer of Terror: Cholera in St. Louis, 1849," in the *Missouri Historical Review* provided details of life in the city. Other cities dealt with the same disease that year including Philadelphia, Boston, New York, Chicago, New Orleans, and Cincinnati. At the time there were incorrect theories about the cause and treatments used at the time were not effective.

The 1850 Census Mortality Schedule and Death Registers show the impact of the disease on the population. Newspapers stories from the time provide a perspective of those who lived through the epidemic. Local manuscript collections might include diaries of people who lived through the epidemic or suffered from the disease. Hospital records, though not available everywhere, could document patients. City directories chronicle where your ancestor lived, their occupation, and their neighbors. Compare years to see how things changed.

### Some of the major epidemics are:

Cholera - contracted by coming in contact with food or water contaminated by infected human waste.

Smallpox - contagious viral disease with fevers and blisters.

Typhoid Fever - contracted by coming in contact with contaminated food or water or from a carrier handling food.

Malaria & Yellow Fever - spread by mosquitos.

Flu - Killed an estimated 50 million people around the world in 1918.

Tuberculosis - bacterial disease that usually attacks the lungs

### Online Sources of Information

- "American Epidemics" on *Genealogy Quest* - List of epidemics by year and place  
<http://genealogy-quest.com/glossary-terms/american-epidemics/>
- "Genealogy Resources Health, Epidemics and Disease," on *Genealoger* - Link to sites with more information including a disease chart with symptoms. [https://www.genealoger.com/genealogy/gen\\_health\\_and\\_medicine.htm](https://www.genealoger.com/genealogy/gen_health_and_medicine.htm)
- "Ancestors and Epidemics," on *Sassy Jane Genealogy* - Maps documenting tuberculosis, typhoid, malaria, pneumonia and rheumatism outbreaks. <https://www.sassyjanegenealogy.com/ancestors-epidemics/>
- "Epidemics and Pandemics in the U.S., 1616-Present," on *Tri-Counties Genealogy & History* by Joyce Tice - list of epidemics and sources for more information. <http://www.joycetice.com/articles/epidemics.htm>
- "Major American Epidemics of Yellow Fever (1793-1905) on *American Experience* - Maps, statistics and links to more articles about Yellow Fever. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/fever-major-american-epidemics-of-yellow-fever/>
- "History of 1918 Flu Pandemic," on *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* - History, links to images, timeline and milestones. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918-commemoration/1918-pandemic-history.htm>
- "A Listing of Some Worldwide Epidemics," on *Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness* - timeline, links to Early Illnesses & Diseases. <https://raogk.org/encyclopedia/epidemics/>
- *Cyndi's List*
  - Epidemics & Plagues - <https://www.cyndislist.com/medical/epidemics/>
  - Diseases & Medical Terms - <https://www.cyndislist.com/medical/diseases/>

## **How Do I Start the Exploration to Find My Family?**

**Time: 7:00-8:00pm    Zoom: Information on next page**

### **September 1 - How Do I Start My Family History?**

I would like to begin my family history, but I do not know where to start. Here are some hints how to start exploring your roots.

### **September 8 - Using FamilySearch Family Tree**

FamilySearch is a free website built for the purpose of tying the whole human family together. The contributors help each other find family.

### **September 15 - Proven Research Strategies**

Success in finding family depends understanding correct research principles. The provides some basics in getting started correctly.

### **September 22 - Analysis & Evaluation**

A record has been found, what does it say; what does it infer; is it really about my family; does it agree with other records; what other records does the information found suggest

### **September – 29 - Exploring the FamilySearch Wiki**

The Research Wiki contains over 96,400 articles to help learn about the area being explored, links to information, and research helps.

### **October – 6 - 5+ Ways to Search on FamilySearch**

There are several ways to search for family and their records. This is an introduction to some of the methods available.

### **October 13 - Finding Family in Census Records**

Census records is one of the first sources used to find family. It has been indexed, so it is one of the easiest ways to find family. Understanding the census is necessary to successful searches.

### **October – 20 - Creeks, Rivers, Townships & Ranges – Land Records Connect Families**

In early America 90% of white men owned land. Families may be identified through land records; show where they lived, when they left and when they arrived.

### **October 27 - Where There's a Will There's a Way**

When, why and where's of probate are helpful in actually finding the will, or estate record which names the family. Sometimes it also reveals personalities of the family.

### **November 3 - FamilySearch Features – Helpful Treasures**

Family History Library Classes, Blog, Lookup Service, Activities, Learning Center Classes, Help Center, Community, Solutions Gallery, Site Map, etc

**Zoom URL good for all sessions**

**Topic: How Do I Start the Exploration to Find My Family -- Lynell Moss****Time: Sep 1, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)****Join Zoom Meeting**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82260630268?pwd=VHhDUjZLQ3BDTjVjZGFyWDNTdIIxQT09>**This zoom link will be good for all ten sessions.****Meeting ID: 822 6063 0268****Passcode: 231213****One tap mobile****+13462487799,,82260630268#,,,,\*231213# US (Houston)****+12532158782,,82260630268#,,,,\*231213# US (Tacoma)****Dial by your location****+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)****+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)****+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)****+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)****+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)****+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)****Meeting ID: 822 6063 0268****Passcode: 231213****Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keeSfOOxr2>**