



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

August 2006

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>

Email Address: genfriends@comcast.net

Newsletter: Barbara Coakley bjc1620@sbcglobal.net

Saturday Seminars & Lock Ins

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2006:

September 16, 2006—All Day Seminar—“Colonial Trails” featuring Lloyd Bockstruck

October 21, 2006—Thinking about joining a lineage society? Representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, and more will tell us about their societies and answer our questions.

October 27, 2006—Lock In—Using Computers in Genealogy. See article below.

November 18, 2006—Lynne Darrouzet and Barbara Coakley will speak on Research in New England.

December 16, 2006—Annual Show and Tell.

If you have suggestions for programs for 2007 please submit them to Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net

October 27 Using Computers in Genealogy Lock In

Lock Ins are held at the Gladys Harrington Library. Registration begins at 5:30, the library closes to the public at 6:00. Suggested donation is \$10.00. Pizza, drinks and cookies are served at 7:00 for an additional \$4.00.

Lock Ins are a great place to learn in small groups. Participate in classes, get help with a research consultation, or use the resources available to do your own research.

A Plano Library Card and Internet Registration are required prior to 5:30 pm to use library computers.

2007 Research Retreat to Washington DC

Genealogy Friends will be sponsoring a trip to Washington DC in October 2007. You will have an opportunity to research at the National Archives, Library of Congress and the Daughters of the American Revolution Library. Orientation sessions will be held at each institution. If you are interested please contact Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net. More information will be available at a later date.

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

Book Exchange

Genealogy Friends would like to exchange Collin County books with books from other societies.

If you have an area or society you would like us to try and exchange with, please contact Joy Gough at jfargo@comcast.net.

Microfiche Reader for Sale

DuKane Explorer 14 microfilm reader, in good condition, with high, medium, low viewing

Used for indexing projects. \$100.

Phone Brenda Kellow, 972-941-9280, or email

TraceRoots@comcast.net

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>.

Massachusetts State Library & Archives

By Lynne Darrouzet, JD, CG

Massachusetts State Library

The Massachusetts State Library www.mass.gov/lib serves primarily the needs of state officials. The genealogically related materials include primarily published records, including published town vital records prior to 1850. Although some genealogical references are available, the Library's web site points the user to other more extensive research facilities in the Boston area, including:

- **Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics** for vital records from 1911 <http://tinyurl.com/on9re>
- **Massachusetts Archives** for vital records 1841-1910, and more (discussed below)
- **The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Northeast Region (Boston)** for federal records, including population censuses for all states, passenger arrival records for Boston and other New England ports, New England naturalization records, and more www.archives.gov/northeast/boston/
- **Boston Public Library**, which has a comprehensive collection of governmental records, city and town directories, New England newspapers, family and town histories, and more www.bpl.org/research/socsci/genealogy.htm

New England Historic Genealogical Society www.newenglandancestors.org (to be discussed at the 18 Nov 2006 *Genealogy Friends' Saturday Seminar*)

Massachusetts State Archives

The Massachusetts Archives holds the official records created by Massachusetts state government. Holdings are organized by agency and date from 1629 to the present. Summary Guide to Holdings is available at www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcpdf/sumhold.pdf

Collections of interest to genealogists:

- **Vital Records 1841-1910:** The Archives holds the registration books of births, marriages, and deaths for all Massachusetts cities and towns, 1841 through 1910. The indexes to these records are in a searchable database at www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcsrch/VitalRecordsSearchContents.html
- **Vital Records prior to 1841:** City and town clerks in Massachusetts hold pre-1841 vital records for their respective towns. The books Vital Records Prior to 1850, organized by town, are available in many research libraries, including the Massachusetts State Library. www.mass.gov/lib/guides/genealogy.htm. Some of these town records are also on Ancestry.com and available at the Family History Library.
- **Boston Passenger Lists 1848-1891:** These are records kept by state officials until the time federal officials took over the function. The card index is in the process of being computerized. What has been completed is available at www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcsrch/PassengerManifestSearchContents.html
- **1855 and 1865 State Census** schedules, and some indexes
- **Military records** from the 17th to 20th century that primarily document service but do not provide a lot of background information on individual or family. Records include:

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Massachusetts State Library & Archives (cont'd)

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- **“Colonial Period, 1643-1774** Records of militia units and military activities during King Philip's War and the French and Indian Wars. Records consist of military rolls, muster rolls, billeting accounts, etc.
- **Revolutionary Period, 1775-1787** Revolutionary rolls contain documents such as muster rolls, descriptive lists, receipts of supplies or money, lists of officers and lists of deserters. Continental Army Books consist of muster rolls of Massachusetts companies and receipts for supplies and money. The records of the Board of War, Commissary General, and Quartermaster General contain minutes, correspondence, blotters, cash books, journals, and ledgers, which detail the delivery of ordnance, provisions, and services to the military units. Pension records contain information on rank, unit, residence, and land or money bounty.
- **Shays' Rebellion, 1786-1787** Letters, orders, warrants, petitions, special reports, military payrolls, financial records, and oaths of allegiance.
- **War of 1812, 1812-1815** Research materials may be found in the records of the Governor and Executive Council, which contain letters, petitions, applications for commissions, and notices of elections of officers. Also militia payrolls, muster rolls, inspection rolls, and company rolls.
- **Civil War, 1861-1865** Muster, clothing, and descriptive rolls, lists of assignments of recruits to town quotas, correspondence from recruiters, substitution records. Useful collections include State Military Agent, Gardiner Tufts and Governor John Andrew's letterbooks (1861-1866).
- **Spanish-American War, 1889** Letters concerning petitions sent to the treasurer and receiver-general includes name of veteran, address, date and location of mustering in and out and other materials.” [From www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arccol/colidx.htm#gene]
- **Massachusetts Archives Collection (1630-1799)** contains records for early Massachusetts, Maine, and New Hampshire families. The collection includes land grants, early records of divorces and contested estates, legislative papers, military records from 1643 through 1775, and tax valuation lists, 1738-1786.
- The records are bound into 328 volumes. Most of the volumes have a table of contents and many have been indexed.
- A surname/place name catalogue exists for approximately one quarter of the collection
- A database provides name, location, and subject access for 18 volumes www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcsrch/RevolutionarySearchContexts.html
- **Papers on Maine:** Since Maine was part of Massachusetts until 1820, the Massachusetts Archive Collection includes 17th and 18th century documents from arranged by county. Eastern Lands papers focus on the settlement of public lands in the District of Maine and its separation from Massachusetts as a state in 1820.
- **Plymouth Colony Records:** The Archives has transcripts of the original Plymouth colony papers, including wills and deeds. Most of the papers were published and are available at the State Library and the State Archives.
- **Institutional records:** Hospitals, prisons, etc. Some records may be restricted.
- **Judicial Archives:** a separate collection within the State Archives contains court records from various courts, counties and time periods. As some court records may still remain in original court houses, you should contact the Archives prior to beginning research using court records. The State Archives collection includes:

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Massachusetts State Library & Archives (cont'd)

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- o Naturalization records
- o Divorce records
- o Probate records
- o Name Change records
- o Adoption records

See for more detail www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcgen/genidx.htm and <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arccol/colidx.htm#gene>

Contact Information:

Massachusetts Archives
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston MA 02125

archives@sec.state.ma.us

Phone: 617-727-2816

Fax: 617-288-8429

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

Second and fourth Saturdays of each month, 9 am to 3 pm.

Occasionally there are exceptions.

Research Assistance: Staff will only handle brief queries; in-depth research involves a visit to the archives by you or someone on your behalf.

NARA Proposed Changes

The National Archives has published a proposed rule requesting that evening and Saturday hours be eliminated in DC and at the regional archives to reduce costs. The rules would be effective October 2, 2006. This means that we could only visit the Archives between 9 am and 5 pm next fall when we plan to go to DC.

This will put a hardship on out of town researchers for the DC Archives, and a hardship on those that work and have family responsibilities for the regional archives. If you're also interested in commenting on the proposed rules, you can do so online at <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main> Under "Search Regulations and Federal Action" select Agency and scroll down to National Archives and Records Administration and click submit. There is only one NARA rule pending. You will see to the right where you can read the rule and add comments

Collin County Bits—Rock Hill

By Joy Gough

The community of Rock Hill was one of the oldest communities on the west side of Collin County. It was located along Preston Road on the white-rock escarpment known as Preston Ridge that runs the length of the county on its western side and was about two miles south of present-day Prosper and five miles north of present-day Frisco. It predates each town by at least forty years. It was at the junction of Preston Road and the McKinney-Alton Road, which was sometimes called Rock Hill Road. Parts of Rock Hill Road still carry that name in McKinney and where it meets Preston Road south of US380.

There may have been a store in Rock Hill as early as 1854 when the post office was formed. The Rock Hill post office was started on December 15, 1854, with John L. Moore as postmaster. It was discontinued on October 15, 1904, with the mail sent to Frisco. The store known as the Rock Hill Store has been there since at least 1902.

In the 1890s a school and four churches—Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Episcopal, South—were built in Rock Hill. These congregations still exist in Prosper.

The McAdew Congregation of Cumberland Presbyterian Church was started in 1878 about ½ mile north of the store. In 1896 it moved to Rock Hill and changed its name to Rock Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In 1902 it moved to Prosper and changed its name to Prosper Presbyterian Church.

In 1896 one acre of land was sold to the trustees of the Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal Church. At some point this church was known as the Wesley Chapel. It remained at Rock Hill until 1915 when it, too, moved to Prosper.

In 1898 an acre of land was sold to the Missionary Baptist Church of Rock Hill. It moved to Prosper in 1902. The Prosper Baptist Church celebrated its centennial in February of 1998.

In 1899 land was sold to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. This church moved to Prosper in 1902.

In 1901 the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 411 was started in Rock Hill. The Lodge had a two-story building in Prosper by 1903. It was discontinued in 1940.

Around the turn of the century the community was said to have a grist mill, a general merchandise store, a cotton gin, a blacksmith shop, three doctors, a drug store, and a dry goods and grocery store. It was said to contain about thirty dwellings and to have a population of about 115 at that time.

In 1902 the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad (the Frisco) decided to build a route down the west side of Collin County, bypassing Rock Hill and creating the towns of Celina, Prosper, and Frisco. (Celina existed but in a different location.) Many of the people of Rock Hill decided to move to Prosper. Several of the buildings were literally moved to Prosper. The three churches and the IOOF lodge moved as well as many of the stores. Remaining behind in Rock Hill were the school, the dry goods and grocery store, and the Methodist church.

The school continued to be the center of social life for the community. Many 'entertainments' were held at the school. In 1906 a Farmers Union was formed that met at the school. A Mothers Club was formed in 1912 that met every Wednesday afternoon at the school house. In the 1920s Sunday School was held in the school on Sunday afternoons.

Collin County Bits—Rock Hill (cont'd)

In 1915 the Methodist Episcopal Church sold its property to the Rock Hill Christian Church. The Christian church remained active until 1924 when it moved to Frisco.

The community continued on for a number of years. The school was changed to one that had one-room and eight grades. In 1948 the school was consolidated with the Prosper District.

There was a black Baptist church and school on the east side of Preston Road. In the 1930s the church held singings. A Prince Hall Masonic Lodge met at the church. The black school was south of the church. After the white school was consolidated with the Prosper district, the black school used the white school building. In the 1960s the black school was also consolidated with the Prosper District.

The Rock Hill Store was on the northeast corner of the intersection of Rock Hill Road and Preston Road. It sat diagonally across the corner, facing south. At one time it had gas pumps. In 1902 Bob Burton ran the store. In 1909 T. L. Palmer bought the store. At that time its slogan was "If you don't see what you want, ask for it." In 1924 J. R. Mohon bought the store. He and his wife ran the store until her death in 1970. The Rock Hill Store, the last remnant of the community, was demolished on December 8, 1973.

Genealogy II Class

If you'd like to take your genealogy research to the next level by learning more about source records and research methods, Genealogy II at CCCCD is the class for you. Taught by Lynne Darrouzet, JD, CG, the class acquaints the student with original records sources (such as immigration records, land and tax records, military records, probate and court records), and helps enhance skills in interpreting, extracting, transcribing and abstracting records, research planning, analyzing evidence and documenting research. Course includes reading a published case study and an assigned class project.

Although Genealogy I is helpful, the only prerequisite to the class is some basic genealogy research experience.

The course will be offered Monday evenings, September 11 through October 30, 2006, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm, at the Preston Ridge Campus of CCCCD in Frisco (about 2.5 miles north of Highway 121 off of Preston Rd).

Gen Friends Web Sites

Volunteers from Genealogy Friends maintain three web sites to provide information for you:

Collin County, Texas Past Finders Photo Collection. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcolli3>. The web site now contains over 3,400 photographs. Categories include Cemeteries, Churches, Schools, People, Places, and Tombstones. If you would like to contribute photos of Collin County subjects, contact Joy at jfargo@comcast.net.

History and Genealogy for the Active Researcher located at <http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghl>. The goal is to expand the knowledge of those researching in Collin County and North Texas. Check out the timeline—a daily calendar of events in Collin County through the years. There is also a biography of Gladys Harrington.

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries Website <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl>. This page contains information on membership, the calendar of events, copies of past newsletters, etc.