



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
December 2011

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

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

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

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Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2011 and 2012. 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:

December 17, 2011—Show and Tell—bring your genealogy treasures and share with the group.

Future Topics:

January 21, 2012—Tara Carlisle from UNT will present Digitizing Your Records.

February 18, 2012—Meg Hacker from the Southwest Regional Archives will discuss the 1940 Census.

February 25, 2012—LearnN—Topics to be announced

March 17, 2012—”Digital Photography for Genealogists” by Tony Hanson

April 21, 2012—Jeanette Hurst will discuss British Research

May 19, 2012—”Introduction to Heraldry for Genealogists” by David Appleton

We are looking for topics and speakers for 2012 presentations, email Barb Coakley at 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
Military Investigations: Red, White & Blue	\$10
Colonial Ills, Brews & Concoctions	\$10
Library 101: Using Dewey Decimal Sys	\$10
Compiled Newsletters with Index	\$15

Genfriends Membership

Dues are due. 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://www.collin.edu/ce/> send it in with payment to

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc
PO Box 860477
Plano, TX 75086-0477

Tracing Our Roots Column

Brenda Kellow writes a weekly genealogy column, you can read it online at

<http://tracingourroots.weebly.com/>

Genealogy Classes

Beginning Genealogy at Collin College taught by Barbara Coakley, Tuesday nights 1/10/12—2/14/12 from 6:30 to 9:00 at Courtyard Campus.

Using One Note for Genealogy, Saturday 3/3 and 3/10 from 9-1 at Courtyard Campus.

Online Research, Tuesday nights 3/6 to 4/10 from 6:30-9:00 at Courtyard Campus

Visit Collin College website to register <http://www.collin.edu/ce/>

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts

You can be one of the best dressed genealogists in town!

We have logo t-shirts, sweatshirts, Henley's and polo style shirts available.

The shirts have a 3" dark green logo printed on the left chest. All shirts are available in toddler through XXXL.

T-shirts \$15

Long Sleeved T Shirts \$18

Sweatshirts \$20 (white, neutral, ash, light blue, pink, yellow and sand)

Henley's \$20 (white, ash or natural)

Polo Shirts \$20 (white, ask or light blue)



What's Going on in Genealogy

By Barbara Coakley

Are you ready for the 1940 Census? Now is the time to get your research plan ready for the Census that will be released on April 2, 2012. Images will be available at Archives.com. Check out the FAQ page on the NARA website <http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/faqs.html> and Steve Morse's website <http://www.stevemorse.org/census/1940census.htm>.

Ancestry has upgraded their app for iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch. Here is an article that discusses the features of the new version of the app. <http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=15625>

The National Archives has partnered with Historypin.com. The site enables users to overlay historical images, videos and audio recordings onto the sights of today. <http://www.historypin.com/>

Legacy 7.5 is on sale—Save \$10 through December 31st.
<http://www.legacyfamilytreestore.com/SearchResults.asp?Cat=1>

18th and 19th Century British Newspapers are online at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> You can search the archive for free but you'll have to subscribe to access the articles.

Fold3 is adding Mexican War Service Records—So far records are available for soldiers from MS, PA, TN, TX and the Mormon Battalion. Here is a link to a blog post <http://blog.fold3.com/mexican-war-service-records/>

The Society of Mayflower Descendants is posting state research guides for New England states. So far they have guides posted for Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. <http://www.massmayflower.org/research/guides/guides.htm>. This is a work in progress so check back frequently.

Ancestry.com has added Sticky Notes—posts from the Ancestry.com community. This is a place for you to share stories and ask questions. <http://ancestry-stickynotes.tumblr.com/>

There is also a new view available on Ancestry.com which works on more platforms and loads images faster. Here's an article about it. <http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=15340>

Using Archives: A Guide to Effective Research is available online. This pdf version covers how archives function, how to find archives that might have records about your family and how to access materials and research at an archives. <http://www2.archivists.org/usingarchives>

The Social Security Death Index changed effective November 1, 2011. They will no longer be using state death records to add new entries and will be removing approximately 4.2 million records that are currently on the SSDI because they were based on information from state death records. Here's a link to an article on Steve's Genealogy Blog <http://stephendanko.com/blog/15164>

Maps of the UK are available on F!ND. This portal allows you to customize and annotate maps. <http://free.findmaps.co.uk/>

Land Records—Public Land Sales

By Barbara Coakley

Land records can provide critical information about our ancestors. Last month, Kelvin Meyers shared with us that over 3/4 of males who lived to maturity well into the 19th century owned land. Search strategies for land records vary depending on where the ancestor lived and if they were they purchased the land from another individual, obtained the land from the federal government or were granted the land by a state or another government.

If your ancestor purchased land from the United States government the documents of that transfer known as the first or initial transfer is held by the National Archives. The records are from the General Land Office the predecessor of the Bureau of Land Management. This land was located in the public domain and was owned by the Federal Government. There were a number of ways your ancestor could have obtained this land.

Public Land states are located in all states except the 13 original states, Vermont, Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Maine, West Virginia, and Hawaii. Land patents for these states were issued by the state governments so the records are not held by the National Archives. Public land was surveyed into Townships that are six miles on each side. Each Township was divided into 36 sections of 640 acres each. Sections are subdivided into half, Quarter, and smaller sections. Township is identified by it's relation to a base line and principle meridian.

Initial transfers took place under a number of programs.

- Homestead - Beginning in 1862 heads of households (including women) could obtain land by filing an application, living on the land for five years, improving the land, and filing for the deed. The homesteader had to build a 12 x 14 dwelling and grow crops. They only cost was a filing fee paid at the local land office. The files for these transfers contain the filing documents and affidavits from neighbors and the homesteader. The affidavits contain descriptions of the land and the improvements. One file I found had a map of the property showing the location of the house, the well, the fields, etc. You get different perspectives since there are affidavits from the homesteader and at least three neighbors. If the homesteader was an alien, they had to prove that they had filed papers to become a citizen so you may find naturalization record copies in the file. Also, if the homesteader served in the military there may be copies of their discharge papers in the file.
- Cash or Credit Sales—Land could be purchased from the Federal Government for \$1.25 per acre. For a short period of time it was possible for the purchaser to use a credit sale. The purchase price was paid out over time.
- Bounty Land—Land was used as an incentive to or reward for Military Service from the Revolutionary War through the Mexican War. There were various acts that provided Bounty Land. Rules are different based on the conflict and the rank of the soldier. The record of the bounty land will be in the soldier's pension file. At certain times the right to the bounty land could be sold. These records are not included on the BLM GLO website.
- Other Acts—Donation Act of 1850, Mineral Acts from the 1860-1870's, Timber Culture Act of 1873 and Desert Land Act of 1877 also provided for specific rules for obtaining land.

There is an index on the US Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records website <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx> . Digital images of the land patents are available on the website for some of the transactions as well as Survey Plats and Field Notes. The index will tell you where the land is located, when the land was acquired, which act applies to the transaction, and if it is a cash sale it will tell you how much they paid. The Land Entry Case files can be ordered from the National Archives on their website (www.archives.gov) using the information from the index. You'll need the state where the land is located, the land office, the type of land entry and the certificate number to order the file.