

# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of  
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News  
February 2024

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## Schedule of Events

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events. Saturday seminars are held at W.O. Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd, Plano, TX from 10:15 to Noon.

### March Events

**March 7, 2024—Round Table Zoom Discussion Group—** Zoom meeting from 7-9 pm

**March 12, 2024—DNA Special Interest Group—Hybrid —**7 to 8:30 pm

**March 16, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—**”A New Strategy for Brick Walls” by Kim Richardson

### Future Events:

**April 20, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—**”The Value of Transcribing Historical Records” by LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson

**May 11, 2024—Research At The Library—**In Person at Haggard Library 10:30 am to 1 pm

**May 18, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—**A Foundational Step in Research Strategy-What is the Research Question?” by Emily Richardson

**June 15, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—**”AI and Genealogy” by Thomas MacEntee

**July 20, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—**”Working With An Online Family Tree” by Bernard Meisner

**August 17, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—**”50 Family History Writing Tips in 50 Minutes” by Lisa Alzo

**September 21, 2024—Virtual All Day Seminar—**More information Coming Soon

**Check out the events on our Website—** <https://www.genealogyfriends.org>

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## Genealogy Friends

**Purpose:** To educate members and library patrons in doing genealogical research and to support the Genealogy Center of W.O. Haggard, Jr. Library through donations.

**Goal:** To expand the library collection to meet the needs of this genealogically diverse community.

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

Like and Follow us on [Facebook - Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries](#)

The annual membership meeting is held each October.

## Gen Friends 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 pay for programs and to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

Pay online or download the membership form on our website <http://genealogyfriends.org/news/> send it in with payment to

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## Ancestors' Homes

Are you curious about the homes of your ancestors? If you find addresses on historical records like City Directories, Census Records, Deed Records, etc. you can search for them on websites like Zillow, Realtor.com, Trulia, Redfin, and Homesnap.

On Zillow, create an account, search for the address, click on the Save icon at the top of the screen. If something happens for this address you will be notified.

My parents sold the house I grew up in when they moved in 1994. The couple who bought it from them raised their family in the home and sold it in 2018. The pictures are still on Zillow from the 2018 sale so I could see how the house had changed.

The home my grandfather was raised in was built in 1866 by his grandmother's and her first husband. He died and she married my great-grandfather. The house remained in the family for two generations until my great aunts sold it due to failing health in the 1970's. I remember visiting them when I was a little girl. The house was sold again in 2009 and the pictures are still on Zillow from that sale. The current street view shows that the current owners have painted the house and it has been maintained very well.

Sometimes you will find that the home, boarding house or apartment building no longer exists but it is definitely worth a few minutes to search to see.

## Local Genealogy Events—Save the Dates

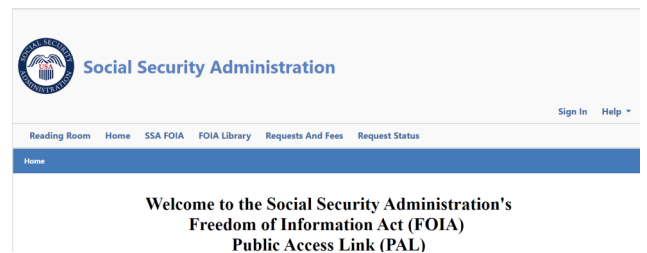
**Gen Friends All Day Seminar**—September 21, 2024—”Research: From Planning to Writing” Speakers include Mark Lowe presenting “Ready-Set-Plan! Developing a One-Step Research Plan.” Watch for more information coming soon.

### Dallas Genealogical Society 2024 Seminar Series:

- April 13, 2024 “Genealogy Jackhammers: Methods for Breaking Brick Walls” with Tom Jones
- July 27, 2024 “The Legacy of Forced Removal: Finding Formerly Enslaved & Indigenous Kin” with Nicka Sewell-Smith
- September 28, 2024 “Autosomal Analysis: Tools for Finding Your Ancestors” with Blaine Bettinger

## SS-5 Form

When our ancestors applied for a Social Security Number they completed a SS-5 form. Copies of these forms are available from the Social Security Administration for \$30 using the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Requests can be filed online or via mail. Information is available on their website <https://foia.ssa.gov/app/Home.aspx>



You will have to create an account. SS-5 forms can be ordered for deceased persons who were born over 120 years ago or died at least three full calendar years before the date of the request. More information and step by step instructions are on a blog post on The Legal Genealogist website <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2024/01/30/ordering-the-ss-5-2024-style/?fbclid=IwAR2zztkF9uA2KNU30HMDRrYdGzQW2wRENfIXy6Y0s-WAFAtVeaG7ZtTDZnQ>

Usually these forms were filled out by the applicant so you get information they provided and their signature.

This is a copy of the SS-5 form for John Coakley. It provided information that I wouldn't have known if I didn't order this record.

Birth certificates were not required until the early 1900's in many places. The SS-5 may be the only official document that includes birth information and the name of the applicant's parents. John's birth was not registered in St. Louis. He was baptized in 1903 in New York City. The baptism record includes his date of birth but not birth place. This document confirms his birthplace was St. Louis.

John lost his job as a draftsman in Kansas City, Kansas so he and his wife Helen applied for and were granted a homestead in California in 1927. John had health issues so they moved to a smaller ranch in Fallon, Nevada in 1940. They sold the ranch in 1945. In June of 1946 they purchased a home in Kansas City, Missouri. Based on the information on this record, John and Helen lived in Quincy, Illinois before they settled in Kansas City. Elizabeth's mother died 12 August 1944. The address on the application was her address. This tells me that I need to look for the sale of the property under Helen's name.

No matter what record you are looking at it is critical to understand the record, determine who the informant is, and pay attention to all the information included.

## Black History Month

February is Black History Month. Here are some educational events during the month and resources:

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society—Feb 24 “The Truth of the 110 Survivors Aboard Clotilda”  
[Here is a link to more information.](#)

The African-American Special Interest Group, Washington DC Family History Center is holding “Telling Our Stories Through The Arts!” on Feb 24. Here is a [link](#) to more information.

The Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery presents Discovering African American Roots: A Beginners Guide, Genealogy Workshop with Mica L. Anders. Here is a [link](#) to more information.

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History presents The Black Family: United by History, Restored by Storytelling. This is a self-guided certificate program that includes pre-recorded workshops and resources that aim to demonstrate how oral storytelling, genealogy, and familial archiving can serve as a return and a way forward. Here is a [link](#) to more information.

The Greater Sacramento African American Genealogy Society presents the 18th Annual African American Genealogy Seminar Our People, Our Stories, Our Courage on March 9. Here is a [link](#) to more information.

The Allen County Public Library presents Tracing the Path of African Americans from Enslavement to Freedom on February 13. Here is a [link](#) to more information.

Remembering the Wilmington Coup of 1898 is a blog post about a project to memorialize the event and those who were affected by it. Read more [here](#).

10 Million Names aims to recover names and stories of the estimated 10 million women, men, and children of African descent who were enslaved in the U.S. before 1865, through a collaborative network of expert genealogists, historians, cultural organizations, and descendant communities. It aims to establish a document-based research repository and to amplify the voices of people who have been telling their family stories for centuries. Their website is <https://10millionnames.org/>

The Dallas Genealogical Society African American Special Interest Group meets on the Third Saturday of each month from September through May in person and virtually. Their next meeting is February 17. Here is a [link](#) to more information.

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon African American Special Interest Group meets on the third Saturday of each month from 2-4 pm central time. Here is a [link](#) to more information.

African American Genealogy Interest Group of Texas is a Facebook group that discusses and explores area of research unique to the African American Community. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AAGIGTX/>

## Volunteer Opportunity



### Gen Friends Needs Your Help

**Genealogy Friends is run by all volunteers and there aren't many of us. In order to keep the society active we need more people to step up, help out, and think creatively.**

Here are a few opportunities:

- Newsletter Articles—tell the story of an heirloom, your favorite website, history of the area, a sketch of one of your ancestors, a unique record you found that was useful, technology you use, etc. I can help edit the piece.
- Photographer to take pictures at monthly meetings to post on our website.
- Event Coordinator—Plan our annual dinner meeting and quarterly lunches. If you can plan a party you are qualified for this. We'll provide a checklist to follow.
- Board Member—Secretary—take minutes at board meetings. If you can take notes and create a Word Document you can do this.

- Social Media—create events on our Facebook page for Saturday Seminars, DNA Group meeting, and Roundtable Discussion Group. The postings are created all you would have to do is log on and create the events on Facebook. Step by Step instructions will be provided.

The board is very supportive and we help each other so you won't be left on your own.

## DNA News

MyHeritage has refreshed the data for Theory of Family Relativity adding millions of new theories that can help explain your relationship to DNA matches. Over two million DNA kits now has at least one theory. Here is a [link](#) to a blog post with more information.

Family Tree DNA provides Y DNA haplogroups from Family Finder Autosomal Tests—the autosomal DNA processing chips include a limited number of targeted Y and mitochondrial DNA SNP locations. Generally, those locations are haplogroup predictive, which is how haplogroup information can be obtained from the test. More information [here](#).

Ancestry's DNA database has reached 25 million, the largest autosomal database. They have also refined their communities. There was a communities by parent release in early 2024 and the algorithms and community reference panels were updated to make the results more precise. You may connect to communities you weren't connected to before and you may have lost communities that you had a weaker genetic connection to. Matches are now linked to the communities.