



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
February 2021

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

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Schedule of Events

Haggard Library is closed so we are holding our meetings via Zoom

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. Invites will be send out the week before the meeting.

This Month

February 20, 2021—Zoom Meeting—”Where Did They Come From? Finding Migrating Ancestors” by Barbara Coakley

February 25-27, 2021—RootsTech 2021—Will be held virtually and it is free, register <https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>

Future Events:

March 11, 2021—Zoom Meeting—Genealogy Round Table—We are a group of genealogy enthusiasts who get together to share information and help each other. Zoom invite will be sent out the week before the meeting.

March 20, 2021—Zoom Meeting—”Finding Genealogical Gems in Your Genes with GedMatch” by Mr. Shannon Christmas

April 17, 2021—Zoom Meeting—”The Most Prominent Citizens: Using County and Local Histories to Locate Ancestors” by Cari Taplin

May 15, 2021—Zoom Meeting—”Brick Wall Breakthroughs” by Thomas MacEntee

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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
Plano, TX 75086-0477

Genealogy Education & News

Genealogy II –Zoom Class - In this class you will learn how plan your research, write reports, cite sources, and locate and analyze genealogy records—wills and probate records, land records, tax records, immigration and naturalization records, military records and tax records.

Collin College Continuing Education course CRN 73468, Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 9:00, Feb 24 to Apr 7, 2021. Fee is \$139. Instructor: Barbara Coakley email cehelp@collin.edu to register.

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.

YouTube is full of videos on genealogy subjects. <https://www.youtube.com/>

DGS Spring Seminar—”**Mastering Genealogical Research: The Right Start Leads You to Great Results**” by Michael D. Lacopo April 9-10, 2021. <https://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/meetings-events/seminars/2021-spring-seminar-2/>

TIGR—Texas Institute of Genealogical Research has four tracts in 2021. Information will be available soon. <https://www.txsgs.org/texas-research-institute/>

IGHR— Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research - July 25-30, 2021 https://ighr.gagensociety.org/website/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/IGHR-2021-Courses-2019_0401.pdf

GRIP— Genealogy Research Institute of Pittsburgh—June 20-25 and July 11-16, 2021 <https://www.gripitt.org/>

Check the genealogical and historical societies in the areas where your ancestors lived. May societies are holding virtual education programs.

Some institutions are doing expanded lookups and will provide copies of records. Look for a research request form or rules for lookups on their websites and requests. Explore the online catalog and submit your requests, you never know what research question you might be able to answer.

Traces of Texas—Sam Harris

Submitted by Barbara Brogdon

Traces of Texas reader Angela Weaver graciously shared this photo of one of her relatives, Sam Harris and his parents. Sam was from Farmersville, Texas and reached a reputed weight of 731 pounds, making him the world's heaviest man. He was sometimes known as "The Texas Kid."

The following bio of Sam Harris was published in 2007 by the awesome folks at [Texas Highways Magazine](#)

"According to legend, 'Big Sam' Harris of Farmersville, Texas began to pack on the pounds after suffering from typhoid fever as a young man. When fully grown, Sam served for a time as the town marshal. His intimidating size made it unnecessary for him to carry a weapon—he could simply pick up a law-breaker and tote him off to jail. Resisting arrest was unheard of in the days when Marshal Sam wore the star. Folks marveled at the strength of 'Big Sam' for decades after his death, and even today he remains a local legend. Old-timers recall stories of Sam's entering a burning building to push a 2,000-pound safe out of harm's way. Sam himself allowed that he could 'lift anything that is loose at both ends.

Serving as mascot for the Farmersville Woodmen of the World, Sam even caught the attention of world-weary New Yorkers when he sauntered through the Big Apple wearing his custom-made W.O.W. uniform and carrying a giant axe. Ripley's Believe It or Not! increased his renown when it weighed in on his Texas-size frame in 1920.

Like extra-tall Texans, extra-wide Sam had to have his clothing and furniture specially made. He rode around Farmersville in a one-of-a-kind buggy pulled by a team of white mules, or in a customized truck that featured a canopy over a platform with a settee in the center. Years before his death, Sam ordered a coffin built large enough to sleep four men of average size. It was recorded in Texas newspapers that thousands attended Sam's funeral. Too large for a hearse, Sam, who died of pneumonia at age 51, took his final ride in a truck.

In an interview in 1964, Sam's son John Harris (Sam and his wife had eight children) said people from all over the country still stopped in Farmersville to inquire about his larger-than-life pop. John recalled him as 'just a good father He used to take us swimming a lot. He would float on his back while us kids climbed up on him and dived off.'

Others also remembered the 'jovial giant' fondly. 'You might say,' said local feed-store owner Coleman Jennings, 'that most of him was heart.'"

Sam was married to Delia Catherine Burkhart in 1893 and fathered ten children.



Story from the Traces of Texas Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/TracesofTexas/>

Census Records—Non Population & Special Schedules

By Barbara Coakley

As part of enumerating the census, other information was collected that can add details about our ancestors lives. There are schedules for farms and businesses. Unfortunately, many of these were offered to the states before the National Archives was created in 1934 so they were not available and microfilmed by NARA. Because of this, you have to do some digging to find some of these schedules. There were also special schedules created—Mortality, Defective, Dependent & Delinquent, Slave and Veterans.

The schedules that exist are (not all schedules are available for all states/counties):

Schedule	Years
Agricultural	1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1885
Manufacturing	1810, 1820, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1885, 1935
Mortality	1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1885
Slave	1850, 1860
Veterans	1840, 1890
Defective, Dependent & Delinquent	1880

Agricultural Schedules

- Small farms may not be included. In 1850, farms that produced less than \$100 weren't enumerated and in 1870 farms less than 3 acres or that produced less than \$500 were not included.
- These schedules paint a picture of the farm. Details include acreage, livestock, crops, and value of farm, machinery, livestock, etc.
- Online Resources:
 - ◇ *FamilySearch* https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Census_Agricultural_Schedules
 - ◇ *Ancestry* <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1276>
 - ◇ *United States Census Bureau* <https://www.census.gov/history/pdf/agcensusschedules.pdf>

Manufacturing Schedules

- Small manufacturing operations that produced less than \$500 worth of goods were not included.
- Learn about your ancestor's business.
- Details include type of business, amount of capital invested, raw materials used, products produced, machinery used, number of employees, average monthly labor cost.
- 1880 includes supplemental schedules for specific industries—boot and shoemaking, lumber and saw mills, and flour and grist mills.
- The 1935 Business Schedules are not available online but statistics have been published. <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=osu.32435012470738&view=1up&seq=13>
- Online Resources:
 - ◇ *FamilySearch* https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Census_Manufacturing_Schedules
 - ◇ *Ancestry* <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1276/>
 - ◇ *Cyndislist* <https://cyndislist.com/us/census/nonpopulation/> (*Links to an external site.*)
 - ◇ Search *Google* for state and manufacturing census schedules
 - ◇ 1935 <https://www.archives.gov/files/research/census/nonpopulation/m2067.pdf>

Mortality Schedules

- List of persons who died in the year preceding the census date. For example, the 1850 schedule includes deaths from June 1 1849 through May 31, 1850. In locations where civil death records started after 1850, this may be the only record of the death of the person.

Census Non-Population & Special Schedules

By Barbara Coakley

- Details include the person's name, age, sex, marital status, state or county of birth, month of death, occupation, cause of death and length of final illness.
- Online resources:
 - ◊ *FamilySearch* https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Census_Mortality_Schedules
 - ◊ *United States Census Bureau* https://www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/other_resources/mortality_schedules.html
 - ◊ *Ancestry* <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8756/>
 - ◊ *Mortality Schedules Online* <http://www.mortality-schedules.com/>
 - ◊ *Cyndislist* <https://www.cyndislist.com/us/census/mortality/general/>

Defective, Dependent & Delinquent Schedules

- There were 7 schedules enumerated in 1880. Insane, Idiots, Deaf-mutes, Blind, Homeless children, Prison inmates, and Pauper and Indigent.
- Keep in mind that definitions of insane have changed over the years, this could include people with epilepsy or port partem depression.
- Different questions were asked on each schedule.
- Online Resources:
 - ◊ *FamilySearch* https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Census_Defective_Schedules
 - ◊ *Ancestry* <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1634/>
 - ◊ *Family History Daily* <https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/1880-schedules-defective-dependent-delinquent-classes/>
 - ◊ *Amy Johnson Crow* <https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/do-you-have-a-defective-ancestor/>

Veteran Schedules

- Questions were asked on the back of the page on the 1840 population schedule about Revolutionary War Pensioners.
- In 1890 a special census of Union Civil War veterans and widows of veterans was enumerated. Even though the instructions were to record Union veterans, some Confederate veterans were included.
- Includes rank, unit, enlistment and discharge dates, length of service, post office address, and disabilities.
- Schedules for states from Alabama through Iowa and half of Kansas were destroyed in the fire at the Commerce Department in 1921 that destroyed most of the 1890 population schedules.
- Online Resources:
 - ◊ *Ancestry* <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8667/>
 - ◊ *FamilySearch* https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Census_Veterans_Schedules
 - ◊ *Boundless Genealogy* <http://boundlessgenealogy.com/tutorial/1890-veteran-census-schedule/>

Slave Schedules

- Individuals were not named on most of the schedules, they are listed under the slave holder's name.
- Online Resources:
 - ◊ *FamilySearch* https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Census_Slave_Schedules
 - ◊ *Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness* <https://raogk.org/census-records/slave-schedule/>
 - ◊ *Ancestry* <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8055/>

It may take a little digging to uncover these schedules but they can provide insights into your ancestor's lives. Provide details about their farms and businesses, details about their death before civil death registrations were kept, insights into health and economic issues, and military service. They are well worth the effort.

Don't forget the 1950 census will be released in April 2022. Start working on where your ancestor lived so you can find them before the indexes are completed.