



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

February 2008

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>

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Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2008. Meetings are held in the Program Room at the Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd., Plano, TX from 10:15 to 12:30:

Today's Topics:

February 16, 2008—Aaron Holt from the Southwest Branch of the National Archives will do a presentation about their collection.

Future Topics:

March 15, 2008—Learn about Family Tree Maker and Legacy, two popular genealogy programs—Speakers Joanne Corney and Tresa Tatyrek.

April 19, 2008—Naomi Taplin from the Texas Baptist Historical Collection will speak to use about Preservation Techniques.

May—To Be Announced

June—Richard Preston will speak to us about Migration Patterns

July—To Be Announced

August—Beginning Genealogy by Barbara Coakley

September—"Convict Ancestors from England" by Dr. Steven Butler

October—Dr. Jacob Blosser will speak to us about the History of Religions in America

November—Lynne Darrouzet will speak to us about Organization

December—Show and Tell.

If you have suggestions for programs for 2008 please submit them to Jean Funk at jeano25@aol.com.

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

Websites

Current US Census data is available by zip code at Zip-Skinny

<http://zipskinny.com/>

A blog about Genealogy Books and their authors

<http://genealogyandfamilyhistory.com/>

Library of Congress photos available on Flickr.com. Check it out you might just find photos of the locations where your ancestors lived.

http://www.flickr.com/photos/library_of_congress/

Want to know what is new and coming from the Family History Library? Check out Family Search Labs.

<http://labs.familysearch.org/>

The Family History Library and Allen County Public Library are collaborating with Brigham Young University to digitize city and county histories.

<http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/>

Excerpts from St Louis City Directories

http://www.davernon.name/city_directories.htm

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>.

Genealogy Class Collin College

Intermediate Genealogy will be offered at Collin College (formerly CCCD) on Monday nights from July 7, 2008 to August 25, 2008 at Plano Senior High School. The Instructor will be Barbara Coakley. Register online at <http://www.cccd.edu/cs/areasofstudy/conted/index.html>

NARA Increased Hours

The National Archives has announced that they will be restore their evening and weekend hours effective the week of April 14, 2008. This is great news for those of us that visit.

Cook County Vital Records

The Cook County, Illinois Clerk's office has undertaken a project to digitize their vital records and make them available on line for genealogical purposes. They are hoping to go live in June or July, 2008.

Legacy Users Group

Joanne Corney started a Legacy Family Tree users group. The group will meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Haggard Library in the Program Room from 10:30 to 12:30. Contact Joanne at ptxlegacy@verizon.net for more information.

Castle Garden

If you ancestor was one of the over twelve million who arrived at the port of New York City between 1820 and 1892 they would have come through Castle Garden. The website <http://www.castlegarden.org/> contains a searchable index. The primary source was NARA publication M237, Passenger Lists of Vessels arriving at New York, NY, 1820-1897. This information has been supplemented from other sources including the Hamburg emigration passenger lists.

Genealogy Section Hours

The Genealogy Section of the Haggard library is now open for business. However, they are open limited hours. The only way we can hope to get increased hours is to make ourselves heard. Stop by the Reference Desk and ask a staff member to record your comments about increasing the hours.

NARA Find & Request

The Find and Request feature available on the NARA website provides a list of frequently requested records and microfilm publications that can be ordered online. It also contains a list of online resources that contain helpful information for understanding what records are available, how to use it, how to order copies, etc. You can also send a reference request to a member of the reference staff. They won't search the record for you but will assist with what records are available that might help with your research and how to use them.

<http://www.archives.gov/contact/> - click on the Ask a Question about Research and Records link

Civil War Pension Files

In October, the National Archives announced a partnership with the Genealogy Society of Utah for a pilot project to digitize and index 3,150 civil war pension files. Once the pilot project is complete they intend to digitize and index all 1, 280,000 Civil War and later widows' pension files.

The files will be available at no charge at the National Archives' research rooms in Washington DC and at the regional archives and family history centers. They will also be available through a subscription based web site.

Currently the Civil War pension files are currently only available at the Washington DC Archives facility. In addition to the application forms, the files can contain supporting documents including marriage certificates, affidavits, birth records, death records, pages from family bibles, correspondence, depositions, etc.

One file I found contained transcriptions of German church records that led me to the town in Wurttemberg where the family was from, this is the only source of this information that I have found. It also contained letters explaining the disappearance of the soldier's brother. Don't forget to check for files of siblings—this was the file of my g-g grandfather's brother.

Civil War Hows and History

By Joy Gough

The more I study genealogy and history, the more I have become interested in HOW (not why) the Civil War was fought. The warfare was so different from today's wars.

As the start of the Civil War, many southerners did not seem to take the war seriously. They were in a joyful, almost playful, mood over the whole thing. When the first shots were fired on Fort Sumter to start the war, the people of Charleston sat on their balconies, porches and widow's walks to watch the shooting spectacle, much like we would watch a movie or a play. I can imagine their cheering for the good shots and groaning over the bad ones while sipping their tea. They certainly did not seem to realize what was going to ensue in the next few years.

Likewise, many of the soldiers that enlisted from Texas thought the war would consist of ONE battle – at Richmond, the Confederate capital – after which they would go home. The soldiers from Texas were marching as fast as they could to Richmond in hopes that the war would not be over before they got there. They enlisted for the duration of the war or one year. They thought they would be home in a few months. They did not think the war would last for years.

The enlistments of the volunteers were very different from those of the regular Army. In the Volunteer Army, a commanding officer did not know from one day to the next how many men were in his unit. His soldiers would go home in the spring to plant their crops and would go home again in the fall to harvest the crops. If a wife wrote to her husband that things were bad at home, he would go home to straighten things out. These men did not consider themselves deserters. They came back to their units when they were finished at home. The Volunteer Army did not consider them deserters either. They were men taking care of their families.

The fighting itself was the old-fashioned kind with the armies running at each other in an open field. It was considered ungentlemanly to take cover and hide. Whoever had the most men was usually the winner. If 600 men ran at 400 men, the 600 would win with combined casualties of at least 500.

Casualties were very high in this war. It was not unusual to have 800 casualties in one battle. After all of these years of fighting in Iraq, the casualties are not as high as 2 battles in the Civil War.

Repeating rifles and pistols were not used in this war, except maybe a little at the beginning. The soldier would fire one shot, then get on his knees while he put in powder and shot and a ramrod to reload his gun. That means that for at least 2 minutes, he was not paying attention to the battle and for at least 2 minutes, repeatedly, part of the soldiers were not taking part in the battle. The armies staggered the shots so all of the soldiers were not reloading at the same time.

Transportation was a big factor in the war. The South had very few railroads at the start of the war. The North was in a better position to bring supplies to its troops. Rivers and boat travel played a big part in the war. This is emphasized in the names of the army divisions. There was the Army of the Mississippi, the Army of the Trans-Mississippi, the Army of the Tennessee. One of my husband's ancestors spent two years in the war in the Red River Campaign. The goal was to keep the Northern army from crossing the Red River and supposedly entering Texas.

The Mississippi River was a major battlefield during the war. The South controlled the southern part of the river up to about Memphis. The North had the northern part. The North could not get supplies to its cities and troops

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Civil Wars Hows and History, cont'd

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by this route. The river was a bad one to defend because of all of its twists and turns. Enemies and defenders could hide from each other or be out of sight in a matter of minutes. All of the tributaries on the river made excellent hiding places. The fortification at Vicksburg were built because it had a good vantage point of the river in both directions, both north and south. The big guns at Vicksburg made it difficult for enemy boats to pass the city. They also made it a vital target for the North in getting control of the river.

The Civil War was the time of the Ironclads - a testimony of the steel industry in America at that time. An Ironclad was a wooden boat that had heavy plates of iron armor on all of its exposed surfaces. The boat was heavy and clumsy and not very maneuverable. For visibility and the use of its guns there were slits in the armor much like the slits in castle towers. The slits limited the range of visibility and the positioning of the guns. Many of us have heard of the Ironclads *Monitor* and the *Merrimac* that fought each other in the war. On the Mississippi River the ironclad was the *Indianola*.

The "destroyer" of the Civil War was the ramboat. These boats had a reinforced bow made of solid blocks of wood 18" - 24" thick. They were smaller, faster and highly maneuverable. They would ram their opponents and then back up and do it again. They carried riflemen on board to shoot at the opponents at close range. The ramboats actually disabled and sank the *Indianola* near Vicksburg.

Submarine warfare started in the Civil War. The first boat sunk by a torpedo in a submarine attack was during this war. Some of you may have heard of the *Hunley*, which has been raised from Charleston harbor and is being preserved and studied. The *Hunley* was a wooden submarine shaped much like a modern-day submarine. It had a long boom on the front with a torpedo attached to the end. The *Hunley* rammed the torpedo into a ship, exploding the torpedo and causing damage to the ship, which eventually sank. The *Hunley* then submerged for about ½ hour until all of the excitement was over. It surfaced long enough to signal the people on shore that the attack was successful. It submerged again and never resurfaced. Nobody knows why.

I have seen the *Hunley* on display in its water tank and the replicas of it in its museum. The hull of the boat is only about 4 feet high. The crew could not stand upright in it. It had no engine, no lights. It carried a crew of about 9 people. Eight men sat on benches and turned a crank, which in turn rotated the propeller. The captain would have his head out of the hatch to see where they were going. He controlled the rudder to steer it. When the boat submerged, it had about 30-45 minutes before it ran out of air and had to resurface. There was no periscope or any other means of seeing outside the boat. Why would anybody sail in this vessel?

Communications were very primitive in the Civil War. Buglers and carriers were the communicators. Buglers knew about 35 - 40 different calls telling the troops everything from going to bed, getting up, eating, charging, retreating, etc. If something happened to the bugler, the commanding officer was left with sending carriers to the various units to relay his commands. This was a very slow process. If the commander wanted his troops to turn left, it might take 10 minutes or more before the troops got that message and that happened.

About a decade later this lack of communication played a big part in Custer's Last Stand. Custer knew his troops were approaching the Indians. He divided his troops into three parts. One group went left; one group stayed behind and watched the wagons and supplies; the other group went right with Custer in command. When he saw the Indians, Custer sent a carrier to tell the first group to join him. By the time the carrier found that group and it turned around to join Custer, about 1 ½ hours had passed. We know what happened during that time.

The Civil War was the last of the old-fashioned wars in America with its open field fighting and its poor transportation, poor communication, and non-repeating weapons. The death toll was very high in this war, partly because of the way the soldiers fought and partly from disease and poor medical treatment. It has been said that more men died from disease and poor sanitation in this war than from the fighting.

IT'S LIKE HUMPTY DUMPTY: Putting the Pieces Together Again

By Brenda Kellow

Have you used every program on your computer this year? If the answer to that is, "No, I have not accessed all the programs," then this is the article tailor-made for you.

Exactly how slow does it go? It's still for you.

Trash overflowing? Full recycle bin. Do you have out of date programs and system? Is it grossly neglected? Does this sound like your computer? It certainly sounds like mine. My personal computer guru tells me much too often that there is too much trash on mine. To justify that, I remind him that I write a column, books and long journal articles. Some things like temporary files and Internet cache files hang around after big projects until someone deletes them. I usually don't take the time. He is not compassionate.

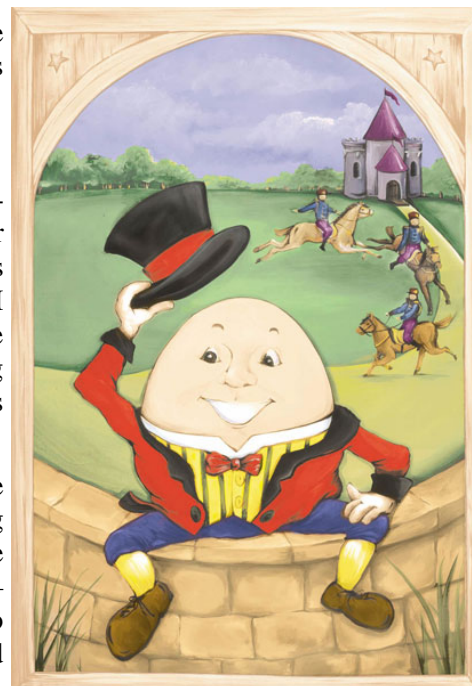
With Super bowl weekend over, take a weekend off before the New Year rolls far past February; think about cleaning up and cleaning out your computer. This does take a little time. Now is an excellent time for me because I have just finished several big projects and they are out—or, it is safe to take them off my computer. Of course it is important to backup any family histories on your computer so that if anything should happen, it won't wipe out all your work.

The first thing I do is close down all programs, turn off the computer, and then restart it. Sometimes when it is on for days it gets cranky and slow and that makes me even crankier. There is some disagreement as to whether or not it is best to leave it on or turnoff the computer at the end of the day. Just this week my electric company had a blurb about turning off the computer to save on energy or to not turn it off which some say it prolongs the life of the computer. They recommend it and gave the electric savings of turning off just one computer.

Before you start, remember that not all operating systems are alike. First, disk cleanup and defragmenting are in order. Click on the start button on the lower right. Slide the cursor along All Programs to Accessories, then System Tools to Disk Cleanup. Start cleaning up your disk by deleting the files you no longer need. This frees up hard drive space and improves system performance. Come on, you can do it.

When that is finished it is time to defrag your computer. This puts all the files needed to run your computer in close proximity to each other on the hard drive. Postponing defragging makes your computer take longer to find a program. Why? It is because during installation it found the first available space or spaces where it fitted, and the parts may be scattered all over the system. Think of defragging your computer like Humpty Dumpty in that defragging puts everything back together again.

The next chore is to update all your computer programs and remove the ones you have not used in the last year. Check to see if you have the latest update for your genealogy program and update it if you don't. Have you ever used that cemetery-mapping program you bought several years ago? You know, it's the one that operates on DOS (Disk Operating System). Remove it. You're a big kid now and have a more sophisticated system. Next update your operating system, office suite and your security suite. My security system, operating system and genealogy pro-



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IT'S LIKE HUMPTY DUMPTY (continued)

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gram all notify me with popups. You probably have popups signaling an update, so check to see what is updated and do so if it is something you want or need.

Now, archive your old emails. With that done, take out the garbage. That is, empty your recycle bin. It is a little trashcan icon sitting on your desktop. Mine sits on the bottom right of the screen. That should almost do it, almost.

There is one more step before you are finished. Close up everything and turn off your computer. Rebooting is a necessity to complete the cleanup process. It may take a couple of extra minutes but it saves hours in future operating time. Sometimes when your computer is acting cranky, that is your signal to reboot.

After using several section breaks in these last two publications, my computer went bizirk! My geek and I spent hours trying to fix the problem. After he found it and fixed the problem, he turned off the computer and rebooted it. That fixed it, with the exception that the section breaks are still cranky. But otherwise, I have a clean-running machine.

You shorten the time spent waiting for your program to open and to operate by completing these chores on a regular basis. Computer cleanup and cleanout is a necessary ritual for your computer to continue to run in tip-top shape. It is time consuming, but necessary.

What's Hiding In the Basement?

By Barbara Coakley

I know most of us in Texas don't have basements, but they do in southern Illinois. Late last year on a trip to Waterloo, Illinois my mother's cousin surprised me with a box of "family stuff" from his basement. I was awed and amazed with the treasures that had been hiding in his basement. This treasure trove included my great-great grandfather's naturalization papers. The county's copy had been destroyed long ago, leaving only a card index to prove that Gottlieb Ziebold and his brother, Joseph had been sworn in as a citizen of the United States. Yes, they were sworn in on the same day. Other juicy items included Gottlieb's passport, letters, a power of attorney, original deeds, wills, funeral cards, loan papers, and stock certificates.

First lesson, ask all of your relatives what they might have laying around the attic or basement that might be related to the family. Even if they don't want to part with it permanently they might be willing to loan the documents. Silly me, I had never asked this particular cousin if there was anything that I might take a peek at. My cousin was willing to let me borrow the items so I could copy and analyze them.

Before I return them and as a thank you for letting me borrow them, I'm going to put them in storage materials that will help preserve them. The first order of business was to unfold all the letters and folded documents. I am in the process of transcribing each one and scanning it so I will have electronic copies. The next step is to analyze each one to see what it can add to my family history.

To analyze the document, I'll see if I can determine a number of things about each document:

- Who provided the information? Understanding who provided the information can help evaluate the credibility of the information. If this person was there at the time the event took place the information is more likely to be accurate than if it was created from second hand information. One document can contain information about multiple

What's Hiding In the Basement? (continued)

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events. For example a death certificate can contain information about both the birth and death of a person. The information about the death is primary—created at the time of the event by someone who was present—, the information about the birth, unless the informant was a parent, is secondary—provided by someone who was not present at the event. The birth information may have been provided by a distant family member, in-law or someone whose memory isn't very accurate at this trying time.

- When was the document created? Not just the date but how close to the event that is it describing. Chances of the information being accurate are much greater closer to the time of the event than something created later “from memory”.
- Why was the document created? Documents were created for a purpose. Knowing what the purpose was can help explain language in the document and explain the presence or lack of certain information.
- What does the document tell me or not tell me? Missing information can be just as important as the information that is contained in the document.
- What else do I need to know? Each document not only answers questions and puts more pieces together in my family history puzzle, it also leads to more questions. Usually more questions than answers. There are stock certificates and documents in the box for a company I had no idea that my Great-great grandfather was involved in. Now I want to know more about the company and his involvement in it.

Next order of business it to store the documents in archival quality materials to preserve them. The documents were all different sizes so I measured the largest document to determine what size archival box to order. I also purchased archival paper and folders.

There are a number of suppliers who handle archival supplies:

The Hollinger Corporation— <http://www.hollingercorp.com/>

Light Impressions—<http://www.lightimpressionsdirect.com/servlet/OnlineShopping>

Gaylord—http://www.gaylordmart.com/lobby_gaylordmart.asp?

Metal Edge—<http://www.metaledgeinc.com/>

Highsmith—<http://www.highsmith.com>

The Library Store—<http://www.thelibrarystore.com/>

Levenger's—<http://www.levenger.com/>

11x17 Inc.—<http://www.11x17.com/>

The Container Store— <http://www.containerstore.com/>

Texas Art Supply—<http://www.texasart.com/index.cfm>

One of the things that I am going to ask my cousin to consider is keeping copies and donating the originals to the Missouri Historical Society. They have the facilities and knowledge to preserve these items for years to come, not to mention that they would be available to anyone researching the Ziebold, Brickey, and Hoffmeister families, all of whom are mentioned in the documents.

If your relatives aren't willing to part with the documents you might consider a portable scanner which can be used with a laptop to capture the images at their house. Santa Claus left a Canon CanoScan Lide 90 portable scanner that does not require an external power source under my tree. I can't wait until my next trip to use it. Don't forget to ask permission at research institutions before using a scanner or digital camera.