

Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
January 2013

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

[http:// www.genealogyfriends.org](http://www.genealogyfriends.org) <http://genfriends.blogspot.com/>

Email Address: genfriends@genealogyfriends.org Newsletter: Barbara Coakley newsletter@genealogyfriends.org

Phone 972-836-9436

Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2013. 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:

January 19, 2013—“British Research Basics” by Jeanette Hurst

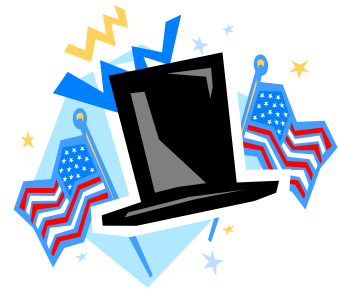
Future Topics

February, 16, 2013—”Whoa, Whoa, Yikes” by Sandra Crowley

March 16, 2013—”How to Find Your Ancestor’s Maiden Name” by Don Raney

April 20, 2013—David Coy will speak to us about capturing life stories.

May 18, 2013—”10 Tips to Break Down Brick Walls” by Barbara Coakley



Index

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Announcements | 2 |
| Collin County History | 3 |
| Ancestry Update | 5 |

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 |
| Colonial Ills, Brews & Concoctions | \$10 |
| Library 101: Using Dewey Decimal Sys | \$10 |
| Compiled Newsletters with Index | \$15 |

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 Apps

RootsMagic has added a free app for ipad, iphone and ipod touch so you can take your family history with you wherever you go. Features include access to your RootsMagic files via iTunes or Dropbox, lets you search and explore your family tree, let you view pictures, notes, and sources, browse lists, and provides useful tools to assist you in your research including a perpetual calendar, date calculator, relationship calculator and soundex calculator.

Legacy has an app called Families by TelGen Limited cost is \$14.99. Reunion has an app There are apps for \$14.99. that let you use a gedcom file to view your family tree data from your mobile device as well including , FamViewer by Aster Software for \$9.99 or GedView for \$3.99. There are also apps available to build your family tree like Heredis by DSD Concept and Mobile Family Tree Pro for \$14.99. Ancestry has an app that lets you connect to your online family trees as well.

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts & Tote Bags

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)

Tote Bags \$17



Collin County History

By Joy Gough

How well do you know Collin County history? Do you know how many courthouses Collin County has had? It is 3? 5? 7? more? That is a hard question. It depends upon your definition of a courthouse.

An easier question is how many county seats has Collin County had? Two.

When Texas became a state in December of 1845, Collin County was created out of Fannin County. A law was enacted that stated that the newly formed counties had to be approximately 30 miles square and the county seat had to be within 3 miles of the geographic center of the county. This stipulation is attributed to Collin McKinney. An interesting side note is that Collin McKinney's farm was barely located in the county that was named for him. Collin McKinney's farm was located about 1/2 mile south of Van Alstyne. The McKinney Family Cemetery is the Van Alstyne Cemetery today.

In 1845 Collin County already had a community close to the center of the county, Buckner, and it was designated the county seat. John (Jack) McGarrah had a general store at Buckner. A back room of the store was used for county business. The first elections and the first court trials were held at Buckner. The first county militia were formed at Buckner. The first July 4th celebration was held at Buckner. So was the Jack McGarrah store the first courthouse, even though it was a general store?

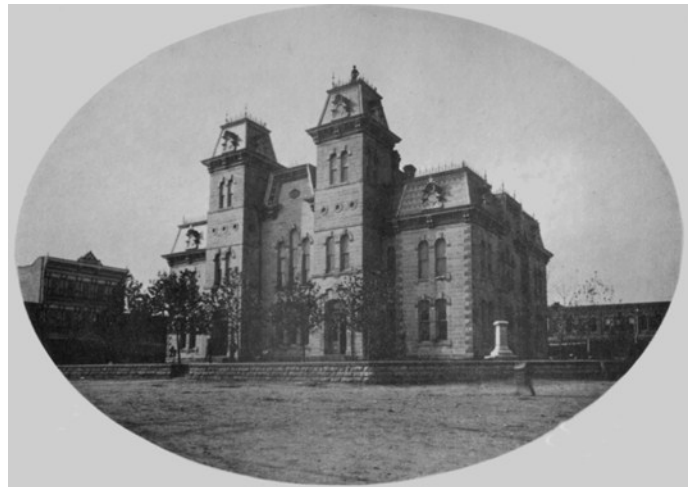
Once the county was formed, it was surveyed to find the geographic center. The center is roughly along the East Fork of the Trinity River southeast of present-day McKinney, in the vicinity of present-day Fairview. It was discovered that Buckner was about 5 miles from the county's center and it was, therefore, in violation of the state law. All that remains of Collin County's first county seat is the Buckner Cemetery, which is located about 3 miles west of US 75 on the north side of US 380 in the parking lot for McKinney Trade Days.

Two locations were chosen for a new county seat that would meet the 3-mile stipulation – one in the location of the current McKinney square and one about 2 miles south of it in present-day Fairview. On the day of the election at Buckner to determine which location would be the new county seat, all of the area creeks were out of their banks because of heavy rains. Only 11 people managed to get to the polls to vote on this important issue. Ten people voted during the day and one person managed to get to the polls just before they closed. The first ten voted for the present-day McKinney square; the late voter picked the Fairview location just to be different. When the county tried to name the new county seat Buckner, the post office said that the name was already taken. The name McKinney was chosen for the second county seat.

Stores and businesses were dragged to the area of the McKinney square. A log courthouse was built in the middle of the square. This could be courthouse #1 or #2. Some people say that this one was replaced by a two-story log courthouse. This one would be courthouse #2 or #3.

Around 1860 Collin County decided that it needed a larger stone building for its courthouse. The two-story log courthouse was moved from the square to a side street. Stone from a local quarry at Squeezepenny near present-day Melissa was amassed on the square.

The Civil War interrupted construction for twelve years and the new courthouse was not finished until 1872. This courthouse was an impressive Victorian stone building with a mansard roof and 2 towers on the east side. It would be courthouse #2, #3, #4, depending upon your definition.



Collin County History, continued

In the 1920s Collin County decided it needed a fire-proof courthouse. The 1872 courthouse was renovated, but not removed. The towers and mansard roof were removed. Greek columns and a basement were added. The stone was covered with brick. The style was changed from Victorian to Neo-Classical. The renovations were completed around 1927. So, since this is still the old building, is it a new courthouse? It would be #2, #3, #4, or #5.

In the early 1970s following the rapid population growth in the county, another courthouse was built couple of blocks southeast of the square in McKinney. This was a square, 7-story red-brick modern building. Voters were told that additional floors could be added to the building as needed. After the building was erected, architects told the county that the structure would not support additional floors. It was courthouse #3, #4, #5, or #6. This building was demolished in 2011.

In 2010 the current courthouse was built in northwest McKinney. It has an accompanying administrative building. It is either courthouse #4, #5, #6 or #7, depending upon your definition of a courthouse.



Ancestry Update

By Brenda Kellow

This is Ancestry's update on additions they've added to the 1940 search database. We can always count on Ancestry continuing to add and improve their database. They indexed the 1940 census in record time, but promised more. And, they continue to deliver. Just check out below the additional fields Ancestry indexed for us. Watch for more additions this year. Hats off to Ancestry.

- House owned or rented
- Value of home or monthly rental if rented
- Attended school or college
- Employment code
- Hours worked the week prior to the census
- Duration of employment
- Occupation
- Class of worker
- Occupation code
- Weeks worked in 1939
- Income
- Income from other sources

The 1940 census asked additional questions for two people on each page. Ancestry has indexed these fields for those individuals:

- Father birth place
- Mother birth place
- Native language
- Veteran
- If child, is veteran father dead
- Military service
- Usual occupation
- Usual industry
- Usual class of worker
- If women have they been married more than once
- Women age at first marriage
- Number of children ever born.

Ancestry's 1940 census, as well as the other free databases, are accessed after giving Ancestry your name and email address. That's only fair considering the magnitude of the indexes. Some of our members have objected to the requirement, but Ancestry is only protecting their investment.

What's New in Genealogy

Rootsonomy is offering free look up services for US and Canada books, magazines, fiche or film at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Fill out the research form.

<http://rootsonomyblog.blogspot.com/p/research-or-lookups.html>

The Board of Certification of Genealogists has added a blog to it's website. The website has some great reference material in it's Skillbuilding section.

<http://www.bgc certification.org/>

A project is underway to digitize thousands of 18th century French and Spanish legal papers in New Orleans. Here is a link to read the article published in artdaily.org

http://www.artdaily.org/index.asp?int_sec=11&int_new=58627#.UMeGIINpdY