



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
January 2020

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

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Schedule of Events

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2020. Meetings are held in the Program Room at the Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd., Plano, TX from 10:15 to 12:30 unless otherwise noted:

Today's Topic:

January 18, 2020—"Protecting Your Data" by Bill Butler

Future Events

February 15, 2020—"Organizing Genealogy Stuff" by Barbara Coakley

March 21, 2020—"Westward Ho! Migration Routes of the US" by Judy Allen

April 18, 2020—Will be announced later

May 16, 2020—"Mining the Gems in a Civil War Pension File" by Bernard Meisner

June 20, 2020—"Four Methods to Search Familysearch.org" and "FamilySearch.org Q&A" by Lynell Moss

We are working on the sessions for 2020, if you have a topic or speaker suggestion please email Barbara 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

Genfriends Membership

Our membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Individual memberships are \$30 a year and family memberships are \$50. Don't forget to renew your membership for next year.

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

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Plano, TX 75086-0477

Genealogy Education

Genealogy II class at Collin College meets on Wednesday from Jan 22, 2020 through March 11, 2020 at Courtyard Campus from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Instructor is Barbara Coakley. Class focuses on different records that we use to tell the story of our ancestors' lives including military records, immigration and naturalization records, <https://www.collin.edu/ce/classes/index.html>

Genealogy Online Research class at Collin College meets on Wednesday from March 18, 2020 through April 22, 2020 at Courtyard Campus from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Instructor is Barbara Coakley. In this hands on class in a computer lab we'll explore websites. , <https://www.collin.edu/ce/classes/index.html>

Rootstech will be held February 26-29, 2020 at the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City, UT. The theme will be The Story of You. Info available <https://www.rootstech.org/salt-lake> . If you can't attend watch for the sessions that will be streamed on the web or consider a virtual pass.

Echoes of our Ancestors, the National Genealogical Society Family History Conference will be held 20-23 May, 2020 in Salt Lake City, UT. <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference will be held 2-5 September, 2020 in Kansas City, MO. <https://fgs.org/conferences/>

Family History Library Classes and Webinars are available on FamilySearch.org to watch. https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

Texas State Genealogy Society Conference, "Remebering Your Heritage" is scheduled for November 13-15, 2020 at the Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas. <https://www.txsgs.org/2020-conference/>

1850 Norway Immigrants

By Texas Historical Commission

Immigrants from Norway came to Texas in the 1850s, with a large number settling in Bosque County northwest of Waco. In the 1880s, the enclave at Norse organized two churches, one at their community named "Vor Frelzers Kirke" (Our Savior's Church) and one closer to Cranfills Gap called "St. Olafs Kirke" (Saint Olaf's Church).

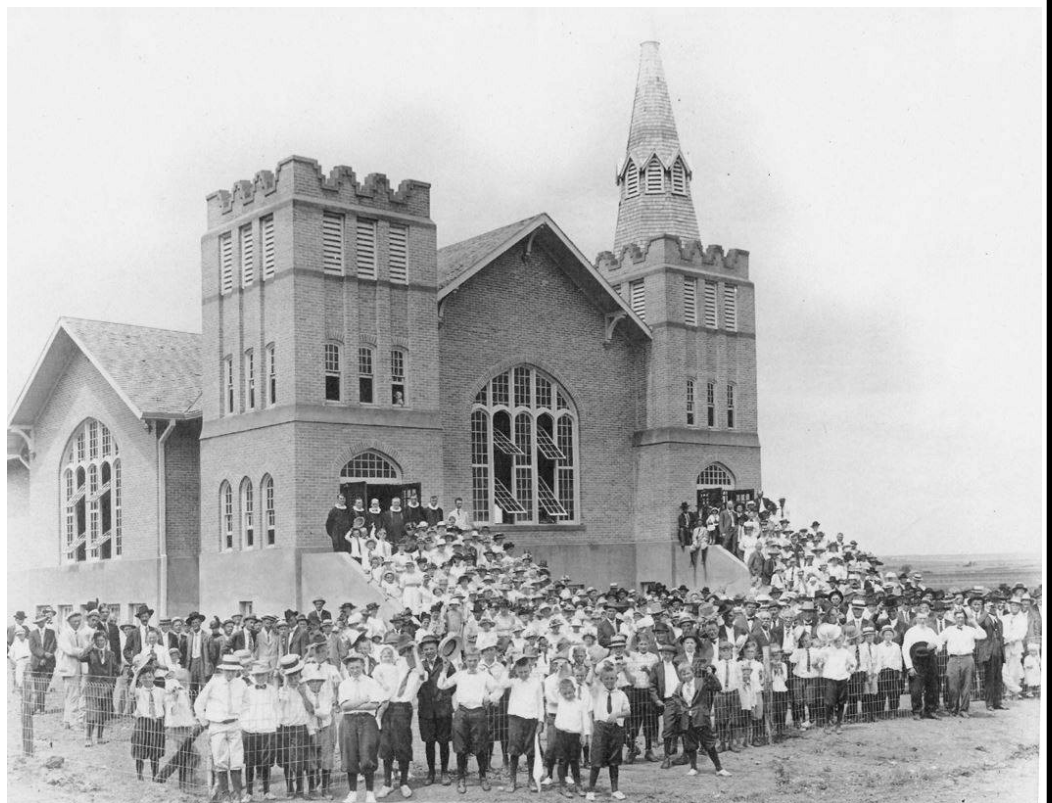
Our Savior's Church, known affectionately as the Rock Church, was completed in 1886 and still stands next to Saint Olaf Cemetery.

In Cranfills Gap, a substantial new sanctuary was dedicated in 1917, described as the "costliest and largest" Lutheran church in rural Texas.

Services continued in the Norwegian language until the 1920s, and at the Rock Church into the 1940s.

The Saint Olaf congregation celebrated the centennial of their church building in October 2017 with festivities which included the dedication of a historical marker and designation as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark

Submitted by Barbara Battocchio Brogdon



Genealogy Resources

By Barbara Coakley

Rootsweb Mailing Lists to be Discontinued

Ancestry.com announced that as of March 2, 2020 Rootsweb mailing lists will be discontinued. The mailing list archives are supposed to remain so you can still search them. Ancestry.com is suggesting that we use their message boards as an alternative. You don't have to pay for an Ancestry.com subscription to access Message boards but you do need to create a free account.

New York Public Library

The NYPL digital collections include city directories for New York City from 1786 to 1922 <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/collections/new-york-city-directories#/?tab=filter&scroll=10>.

You can email a question to the History and Genealogy section <https://www.nypl.org/locations/divisions/milstein>
They have online research guides https://www.nypl.org/collections/nypl-recommendations/guides?field_related_divisions_nid=5218

Scandinavian Research

Lisa Louise Cook recently interviewed David Fryxell on her podcast. His new book on Scandinavian research was published in December, 2019. If you are looking for a source on searching ancestors in Denmark, Sweden and Norway you might want to look into this book. *The Family Tree Scandinavian Genealogy Guide: How to Trace Your Ancestors in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway*. The book is available through Amazon in both paperback and kindle editions.

Interment.net Adds Records

Interment.net has more than 25 million records. There is no fee to use their website. They are adding records every week. Cemetery transcriptions come from a single source—cemetery office, government office, church, tombstone transcriber, etc. they are not crowd-sourced like Find A Grave and Billion Graves. <http://www.interment.net>

Holocaust Records on Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com has partnered with Arolsen Archives, an international center on Nazi persecution with the world's most comprehensive archive on the victims and survivors of National Socialism, to preserve their records. There are currently two databases available on Ancestry.com—Passenger Lists 1946-1971, lists of displaced persons, traveling from a resettlement camp to a final destination, and List of Those Persecuted 1939-1947, lists of persecutees in Germany. These databases are available to anyone with an Ancestry.com account regardless of subscription level. https://www.ancestry.com/cs/alwaysremember?o_xid=106065&o_lid=106065&o_sch=Email+Programs



Researching a New Location

By Barbara Coakley

It is very tempting when I find a new location where my ancestors lived to dig right in and start searching on FamilySearch.org or Ancestry.com. However, I know that before I start researching family members in a new location I should research the location itself. In the long run, it will save me time and make my research more effective. I need to learn what records are available for the location and where they are.

The first step is to develop a research question. My Aunt had three pages from a book titled Record of Family that we believe were written by Rose Shaumeyer Coakley, my Great Grandmother. One page says that her husband John Theodore Coakley died in Vancouver, Washington of paralysis in his left side on September 8, 1906. My Grandfather said he was working on building the Second Narrows Bridge when he died. My research question was “Where and how did John Theodore Coakley die and where is he buried?”.

The FamilySearch Research Wiki is a good place to start. Search for the new country, state, or county. I searched Vancouver, Washington and learned that it was the county seat of Clark county. The wiki page for Clark County included a map showing where Clark county was in the state.

County boundaries can change, there is a link to the Newberry Library Historical Boundaries and a link to an interactive map of county formations on mapofus.org. Clark county was formed 27 June 1844 and the boundaries haven’t changed since Washington was admitted to the Union in 1889.



Dates of Major County Records [\[edit source \]](#)

Known Beginning Dates for Major County Records ^[6]						
Birth*	Marriage	Death*	Court	Land	Probate	Census
1890	1890	1890	1890	1890	1890	1850
Statewide registration for births and deaths began in 1907. General compliance by 1917.						

There was a chart indicating when the county began keeping records. Death records started in 1890 and the state took over registering deaths in 1907. If John really died in 1906 there should be a death certificate. A search of the catalog on FamilySearch.org has two entries that I need to search, Washington, Clark County, death returns, 1891-1907 and Washington, Clark County, death register, 1891-1907. There is also a collection of Clark County Cemeteries,

Newspapers are a great source of information and since John may have been killed working on a bridge being built there could be news stories in addition to his obituary. There is a link to Clark County, Washington Genealogy Newspapers but when I clicked on it the page was blank. The Library of Congress Digital Collection, Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers includes a US Newspaper Directory (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>) . A search of Clark County, Washington for 1900-1910 resulted in 20 different newspapers. The Vancouver Independent covered 1875-1910 and the Vancouver Columbian covered 1890-1920. There were no digital editions for 1907 on their website so I checked Newspapers.com, Genealogybank.com, Google Newspaper Archive, Elephind, and The Ancestor Hunt. The only online paper I found was on the Clark County Historical Museum Newspapers Archive however it only covered 1876-1888, which was too early. I’m going to have to order the newspaper on microfilm through Interlibrary loan.

To find John’s grave I’ll add FindAGrave, Billion Graves and Interment.net to my research plan.

The Clark County Genealogical Society has a link on the Wiki page. This is a great place to find experts in the location I want to search. Their website includes a list of local researchers available for hire and the society will search their publications. They also have a cemetery project and an index to their publications that I can search. They have a digital collection on the Washington State University website but it is tax ledgers for 1886 and 1891. They won’t help me answer my research question but I’ll add them to my resource list for future reference.

Ancestry.com has collections of County Records, 1856-2009 a collection of Washington Death Records, 1883-1960 that I can also search.

Researching a New Location, continued

Let's recap, here's what my research plan looks like so far.

Question: Where and when did John Theodore Coakley die and where is he buried?

Background: Family book pages say he died September 8, 1906 of paralysis in his left side in Vancouver, Washington and his son told me that he was a bridge builder and was killed while working on the Second Narrows Bridge.

Research Tasks

1. Search FamilySearch.org Death Registers and Death certificates
2. Search Ancestry.com Death Records and County Records
3. Search FindAGrave.com, Billion Graves.com, and Interment.net
4. Order newspaper via interlibrary loan.

Now it is time to search and record the search results on my research plan.

The Death Registers haven't been indexed so I browsed the records. On page 25 of the Register there is an entry for John Coo who died on Sept 9 1906 he was 45 years old, married, died of Hemiplegia, was a compressed air worker. This could be John but it isn't conclusive. A search of the Death Returns had better results, John Coakley (indexed as Cookley) died on Sept 9 1906 of Hemiplegia, duration was 6 hours at the Vancouver Sanitarium. He had been a resident of Vancouver for three months and the undertaker was Vancouver Undertaking.

A google search of Hemiplegia confirmed that it is paralysis on one side of the body.

A search on FindAGrave.com returned a picture of John's tombstone in St. James Acres Cemetery. John Coakley born at Andover, NY May 13, 1866 Died Vancouver, WA Sept 8 1906, Erected by the Compressed Air Workers.

I wondered if John was working as a Compressed Air Worker on the bridge when he was killed so I searched more on Google and found an article on Decompression Sickness aka Caisson Disease. Bubbles form in or migrate to any part of the body resulting in joint pain, paralysis and death. The article referred to building other bridges and included a picture of the caissons.

Once the microfilm newspapers arrived the obituary in the Vancouver Columbian on Sept 20 1906 confirmed that John "was an employee of the Portland and Seattle Railway Co, working on the caissons in the river at which kind of bridge work he had been engaged for 12 years. His wife and three children came here to the funeral from Kansas." He was buried in the Catholic cemetery after a services at the Cathedral on Sunday, September 16.

The last step is to write up a conclusion of my research, add the information to my genealogy database and online tree and follow up on any other possible sources.

John Theodore Coakley died of Hemiplegia on September 9, 1906 after being treated for 6 hours at the Vancouver Sanitarium. He was working as a compressed air worker building a bridge across the Columbia River. John was buried at St. James Acres cemetery on September 12, 1906 after a mass at the Cathedral. His wife and three of his children traveled from Kansas to Washington to the funeral. The Compressed Air Workers erected his tombstone.

Next steps: Find record of his funeral at the Cathedral, more information on working in Caissons, Vancouver Undertaking, Vancouver Sanitarium, and the bridge over the Columbia River.

Getting familiar with the location and planning my research were key steps to successful research. I knew what records were available and where to access them. The records I found answered my original question and led me to ask more questions that I was able to answer and some that I still need to research.

