Genealogy Friends News

Schedule of Events

We are holding our meetings via Zoom through February 2022

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 (unless otherwise noted below). Invites will be send out the week before the meeting.

This Month:

January 15, 2022 - Zoom Meeting - "Choosing the Details: The Secret to Compelling Stories" by Laura Hedgecock.

Future Events:

February 3, 2021—Zoom Meeting—Genealogy Round Table—We are a group of genealogy enthusiasts who get together to share information and help each other on the first Thursday of each month. Zoom invite will be sent out the week before the meeting.

February 19, 2022 - Zoom Meeting - "Facebook's 16,700+ Genealogy/History Pages & Groups" by Katherine Wilson

March 19, 2022 - **Format TBD - "Same Name More Than Once in the Same Location"** by Emily Richardson.

Index

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

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.

There are virtual lectures almost every day listed on **Conferencekeeper.org**. https://conferencekeeper.org/

RootsTech will be virtual in 2022 - March 3-5th - Registration is open https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/.

Genie Bugs Genealogy Calendar - links to webinars, classes, conferences, etc. https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?src=geniebugs6396@gmail.com&ctz=America/New_York&fbclid=IwAR26NrTbLh4bWhKX6sLmJzGbxKSkrs1WrkRmVvX0F8SprFXi0tJYV9HUgpw&pli=1

FindAGrave changes policies:

When a memorial is created the creator will be asked if they are a close relative and will ask how they are related if they say yes. For the first three month's after a person's death, their memorial will show limited information if it isn't managed by a close family member. If a member of your family has a memorial created by someone else, for the first three months you can transfer it by stating how you are related without having to wait for the creator to approve the transfer. From three months to one year after death, the transfer button will still be there but the site isn't specific about if it has to be approved by the creator.

The guidelines for relationships that can required transfer have also changed. Since January 11, 2022 they include "child, spouse/partner, sibling, parent, grandchild, great-grandchild, grandparent, great-grandparent, niece/nephew, great niece/nephew, aunt/uncle, great-aunt/uncle or first cousin. This would include adoptive, step and in-law versions of these relationships." If two people in this group request management of an memorial the one with the closest relationship should be given management.

https://support.findagrave.com/s/article/Memorials-for-those-who-are-recently-deceased

Identifying Old Photos
By Barbara Coakley

I have a photo album that was sent to me by one of my mother's first cousins. It belonged to their grandmother, Mina Hoffmeister Ziebold. The photos are cartes des visites and cabinet cards. Unfortunately most of the people in the photos are not identified.

Cartes des visites were introduced in 1859 and were popular in the 1860's and 1870's. They were 2 1/2" x 4" albumen printed photographs mounted on thick paper. https://www.photographymuseum.com/histsw.htm

Cabinet Cards were also albumen prints on paper mounted on thicker paper. They are bigger and often have the name of the photographer on the bottom of the front or the back. Early cabinet cards had no borders. They were available from 1866 to about 1914 and reached their peak popularity in the 1880's. https://blog.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk/find-out-when-a-photo-was-taken-identify-a-cabinet-card/

The family lived in St. Louis. For those with the name and address of the photography studio, city directories are a way to date the photographs. There is also a website that includes a list of photographers, their address and the dates they were at that address. https://stlouis.genealogyvillage.com/tracylewis.htm

Based on the information on the website, Boehl & Koenig were active in St. Louis from 1864 to 1894. They were located at 707 N 4th Street & 7128 South Broadway from 1879 to 1887, 1892 and 1894. These dates can be confirmed using the City Directories on Fold3.

The next step is to look at the family and see if I can identify a family with a boy and girl that might be the right age of the two in the photograph. Dating their clothing can also help narrow the date range.

There is a second photo in the album that looks like the same children when they were older and there is a third, younger girl with them. It was taken by L F Hammer, located at 1534 South Broadway and Jul 18 1893 is stamped on the back. Ludwig F Hammer was located at this address from 1890-1894.

I was able to rule out Mina's children using family photos. She had six brothers who had children and one of them had three children - Arthur born 11 August 1884, Alma born 15 February 1886 and Adelle born 7 December 1891.

I wondered about using facial recognition software to confirm the two children in the older photo are the same as those in the photo from 1893. I found a blog article that said MyHeritage has a tool so I uploaded the two photos. On MyHeritage you can tag a photo but the person has to be in your tree. I added the three chil-
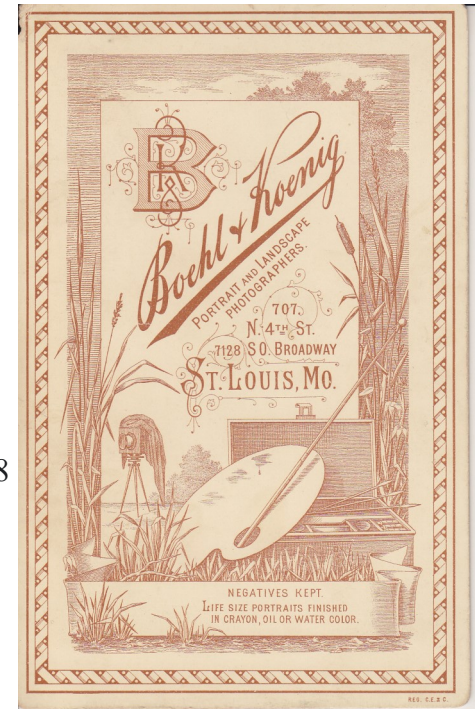
Identifying Old Photos (continued)

dren to my tree and tagged their photos but couldn't find any tool to compare the photos. I found a tree on MyHeritage by one of Adelle's descendants but she didn't have any photos attached.

Next I went to FamilySearch.org and added the three children to the family tree and uploaded the pictures. The feature they have is to compare your photo to your ancestors.

Ancestry.com had a tree but none of the other trees had any photos of children.

A google search on using facial recognition for genealogy returned the following results:

Family History Today: Using Facial Recognition Tools to Identify Unnamed Ancestors https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEPUn1EWcXI

Pictriev.com - upload two photos to compare them. http://www.pictriev.com/fc.php

Google Photos has a setting for identifying and grouping faces that you can turn on in your account. https://www.hawk-hill.com/old-photos-facial-recognition/
https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/what-is-google-photos
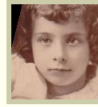
I'm pretty sure the two photos are the same children. They are the right ages, it is probable that their pictures would be in an album owned by their Aunt, and the only brother of Mina's whose family fits; but, I haven't found any pictures that were previously identified as the children of Frederick Hoffmeister and Amelia Grate Hoffmeister to compare them to.

Next steps, scan the rest of the pictures from the album and upload them all to FamilySearch, Ancestry and MyHeritage and reach out to other researchers working on the Hoffmeister family to see if we can positively identify the photos.

1895 Snow in Galveston
Submitted by Barbara Brogdon

Originally published on Traces of Texas on Facebook

On Valentine's Day, 1895, a foot of snow fell in Galveston. This view is of the Sealy Mansion, which still stands at 2419 Sealy Ave. The unprecedented event erupted into a giant snowball fight. Bankers, doctors and lawyers suddenly became children again and pelted each other with glee.

Courtesy the Rosenberg Library.

Submitted by Barbara Brogdon