



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of  
Plano Libraries

December 2006

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## Saturday Seminars & Lock Ins

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2006 & 2007:

**January 20, 2007—Steven Butler will speak to us about the US-Mexican War.**

**February 9, 2007—Lock In Breaking Down Brick Walls. See Page 6.**

February 17, 2007—Barbara Coakley will discuss the Ziebold and Schnaiter Family research that led her to the Family History Tour to Germany.

March 17, 2007—Dr. Adrienne Caughfield will present “True Women and Westward Expansion”

April 21, 2007—All Day Workshop—Colleen Fitzpatrick will be returning.

May 19, 2007—Ed Sandbach will discuss Preserving and Organizing Photos and Vicki Bell will discuss Digital Photography

June 16, 2007—Happi McGirk will speak to us about Writing Your Family History and Creating Digital Heritage Albums

July 13, 2007—Lock In—Regional Research. Sessions will cover research in various parts of the US.

July 21, 2007—Martina Wildechapparro will speak on the Victorian Mourning Culture. Second Speaker TBD

August 18, 2007—Preparing for a Research Trip by Barbara Coakley

September 15, 2007—Lynne Darrouzet is our speaker, topic Government Documents.

October 20, 2007—Glen Kinkade, topic to be announced.

October 26, 2007—Lock In—Computers and Genealogy

November 17, 2007—Richard Preston will speak to us about Migration Patterns.

December 15, 2007—Annual Show n Tell. Bring your genealogy finds to share with your friends.

If you have suggestions for programs for 2007 please submit them to Barbara Coakley at [bjc1620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjc1620@sbcglobal.net)

## 2007 Research Retreat to Salt Lake City

Genealogy Friends may be sponsoring a trip to Salt Lake City this fall, the trip to Washington DC has been cancelled due to lack of interest. Stay tuned for more information.

## 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

## McKinney Genealogy Program

The McKinney Memorial Public Library is having a free seminar on Saturday, February 24th from 3:00 to 4:00.

Carol Taylor from Greenville, Texas will speak on "Learn More About Civil War Research."

## Microfiche Reader for Sale

DuKane Explorer 14 microfilm reader, in good condition, with high, medium, low viewing

Used for indexing projects. \$100.

Phone Brenda Kellow, 972-941-9280, or email

[TraceRoots@comcast.net](mailto:TraceRoots@comcast.net)

## 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>.

## Postcards From the Past

### By Joy Gough

When my father died, I begged to have his old postcard collection. I had never even looked at the cards, but somehow I knew it was important that I have them. I knew many of the cards were from the early 1900s.

The Postcard Era in America went from 1901 to 1915. The post card did not come into public usage in America until 1901. The word "Post Card or Postcard" was granted to private printers at that time. Writing was not allowed on the address side of the card and was limited to the front side. The publishing of printed postcards from 1901 to 1907 doubled almost every six months.

Eastman/Kodak got into the action by issuing an affordable "Folding Pocket Kodak" camera around 1906. This camera allowed photographs to be printed directly onto postcard paper. The cameras even had a small thin door that allowed the photographer to write a caption on the negative itself. This allowed the public to take pictures of family reunions, disasters, houses, street scenes, picnics, etc. My dad's collection contains several of these "candid" shots.

It was not until 1907 that the United States allowed the use of the "divided back" on post cards. This is the kind we are familiar with today, in which the front is a picture and the back has the address on the right and the message on the left. The introduction of the "penny postcard" ushered in the "Golden Age" of postcards during which the collecting of postcards became a public addiction. Publishers printed millions of cards in this era (1907 - 15). Most postcards at this time were printed in Germany. Postcard clubs were formed and postcard showers were held. People wanted to collect as many postcards as they could from as many different locations as possible. One card told of someone receiving 150 postcards for her birthday from 21 states and she wanted more. This mania for postcards lasted until World War I. By the end of the war, the telephone had replaced the postcard as a fast reliable way to keep in touch.

It was during the "Golden Age," 1907, that my family moved 600 miles south from Ohio to South Carolina. The number of postcards in my collection from "back home" in 1908 and 1909 is in the hundreds. Some of the information on the cards is useful, some isn't. There was a lot of discussion about the weather. Here are some of the things I learned from the postcards.

1. I learned my great grandmother's middle initial. I had been told that her middle initial was E. All of the cards addressed to her show it as N. I still do not know what it stands for.
2. I know almost exactly when the family moved to Charleston. The first card is dated January of 1907.
3. I know almost exactly when the family moved from one house to another. In 1911 they were living at a new address.
4. I got the addresses of various relatives back in Ohio. Many of the writers put their street addresses on the cards.
5. I learned the names of some distance relatives who sent the cards. Some of these relatives were not in my database.
6. I also learned the names of children and spouses.

## Postcards From the Past (continued)

7. A couple of cards describe my great grandfather's death.

8. One of the relatives was a "snowbird" who went to Florida every winter. I did not know they did that as early as 1909. I am still trying to identify this family. I have their given names, but not their surname.

9. 1908 - 10 was a time that many people in Ohio moved west. I do not know what the attraction was except that Seattle was holding the "Alaska, Yukon, Pacific Exposition" in 1909. I had relatives who moved to the Seattle and Portland areas about that time. Several others mention thinking about moving.

10. In 1938 my grandparents took a cross country motor trip. I can follow their trip from Charleston to Atlanta, New Orleans, San Antonio, El Paso, Deming, Tucson, Phoenix, San Diego, Los Angeles, and back. They were gone for 3 months. My grandmother did not say much more on her cards than "we are here and going there tomorrow" but you can follow the trip the whole way. She thought Gulfport, Mississippi, was much prettier than California.

11. I learned many things about the history of the areas where my relatives lived from the pictures on the front of the cards. I am constantly looking on the internet for information about events and locations. I want to find local newspapers to see if the family reunions are mentioned.

12. I have a note from my grandfather saying his grandmother's maiden name was Halstead. I have not been able to find any information supporting that. His grandfather was married to Emily Benham. I was able to prove my grandfather's statement because in 2 postcards they are invited to attend the Halstead and Benham reunions.

The postcards have been a fount of information. I am currently transcribing the cards. The pencil writing is faded and difficult to read. US Gen Web has a historic postcard site. I might scan the cards and submit them to that site. I feel that this "gold mine" should be shared with everyone. If someone in your family has an old postcard collection, I hope you will jump at the chance to read it and possibly own it.



## The Spanish American War

By Brenda Kellow, CG

The explosion of the armor plated Navy showpiece U.S.S. Battleship *Maine* on February 1898 in Havana, Cuba's harbor brought cries from the States of "Remember the Maine." The sinking of this second-class battleship was the catalyst for bringing war between the United States and Spain. The *Maine* was the pride of the Navy and represented the state of the art in naval ship-building. Conversely, for some time there had been rumblings of the possibility of some kind of interference by the United States toward Spain. The newspapers painted a picture of Spanish carnage that infuriated the Americans. The commercial firms along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, as well as the large numbers of Americans living on the island and in the Caribbean, urged interventions. The atrocities committed by the Spanish military toward the Cuban people's struggle for independence brought a cry of American sympathy toward the Cubans, Puerto Ricans, as well as the residents of the Philippines.

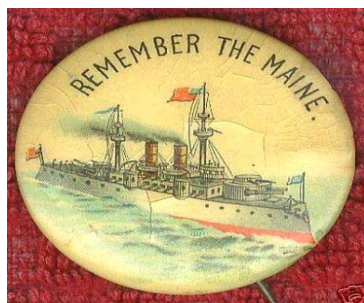


Figure 2 Remember the Maine Memorial Button

Fortunately, the United States began immediately after the Civil War to prepare for a possible conflict with another nation. The result brought three decades of military preparation following the Civil War. Conversely, Spain's military leaders lacked strategic planning, and their vessels were obsolete. Another contributing factor in their defeat in the Spanish American War was the lack of ammunition for weapons and coal to run their ships. All of this resulted in Spain's loss of control in the Caribbean and Pacific, and the end of the Spanish empire.

The cry for independence by the Cuban people had been hijacked to become the "Spanish American War." The war lasted only five months, but it proved to be an important learning experience for the U.S. Navy. Securing the Caribbean allowed the construction of the Panama Canal, established Asian shipping routes and military facilities, the control of Guam, and it established the United States as an international player. The Spanish American War proved to be an important learning experience for the U.S. Navy. Other collateral benefits were the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands on July 7, 1898 and the opening of a significant military base for the United States.

By consulting the three microfilmed indexes, *General Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War with Spain, 1898-1901* (NARA microfilm M240), makes research on volunteers significantly easier. The service records, unfortunately, have only been filmed for the state of

Florida. It is possible to order volunteer service records at <http://www.archives.gov>, then clicking on "Military Records," next click on "How to Request Military Records," and finally by clicking on "Requesting Copies of Older (pre-WWI) Military Service Records." You may also order the NATF 86 form from NARA. The Internet sources are indexes to soldiers serving in the Spanish American War. When searching the 1930 census records, you may find under the "Veteran" column, the war in which the veteran served. Look in the sub-column for the initials "Sp.," the government's abbreviation for the Spanish American War.



Figure 1. Explosion of the USS Battleship MAINE, Lithograph



Figure 3 USS MAINE Sailor's Hat

## The Spanish American War (continued)

To find a veteran in this war, it is recommended you first learn the history of the war by visiting the Library of Congress Web site, "The World of 1898: The Spanish American War."

### Heroes of the Spanish American War

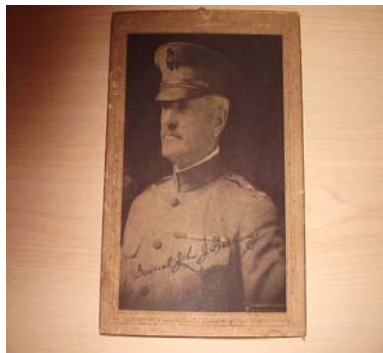
#### Theodore Roosevelt

"Remember the Maine" was the battle cry fueled by yellow journalists such as Joseph Pulitzer of the *New York World* and William Randolph Hearst of the *New York Journal*, but probably the person most anxious to go to war was Theodore Roosevelt. When war was declared on April 21, 1898, he was most anxious to take part in the battle. He stated that serving with the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment known as the "Rough Riders," although the Spanish American War lasted only four months, was one of his "proudest moments." The two most memorable events that set the stage for war was the sinking of the USS Maine, and, the "Rough Riders" charge up San Juan Hill.

Theodore Roosevelt had many accomplishments, but the most exceptional were his two terms as President of the United States, and his publishing of forty nonfiction publications, his exploration of the South American wilderness, and his likeness sculpted on Mount Rushmore.



Figure 4 Theodore Roosevelt, U.S. 1st Vol. Cavalry "Rough Rider" uniform.



#### General John J. Pershing

One of our most famous Army officers, an 1886 graduate of West Point, was John J. Pershing, General of the Armies. He served in the Spanish American War, the Philippines Insurrection, the Mexican Expedition and was the overall American Commander in Europe during World War I. Following his military career he served as Army Chief of Staff. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery under a simple white gravestone in Section 34 near the gravesites of his "Doughboys" from World War I.

Figure 5 General John Joseph "Black Jack" Pershing, General of the Armies. Autographed.

## Web Sites

**GenWiki** is designed to become the main source for genealogy in the German-speaking areas of the world. The pages will be maintained by the Society for Computergenealogy.

[http://wiki-en.genealogy.net/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://wiki-en.genealogy.net/wiki/Main_Page)

#### **An Atlas of the German Empire 1883**

The Memorial Library at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has digitized this atlas for our use.

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/etext/ravenstein/>

#### **Bremen Passenger Lists, 1920-1939**

The only passenger departure lists from the port of Bremen that exist are for 1920-1939. They are indexed online at this web site.