



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano  
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News  
January 2010

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

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## Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2009 & 2010. 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 16, 2010—Tom Crowe is our speaker. The topic will be Censuses and Courthouses/ Right Next Door, The American Revolutionary War in Louisiana.

### Future Topics:

February 20, 2010—Joanne Corney will speak to us on AniMap and Centennia.

February 27, 2010—Learn-n—We'll have two classes one on Using Family Search.org Outlines to Guide Your Research and Beginning Genealogy.

March 20, 2010—Brenda Kellow & Jean Funk will do programs on Genealogy Jeopardy and National Institute Lecture

April 17, 2010—"Fighting Hate Through Film" by Dan Spigel.

If you have suggestions for programs please submit them to Jean Funk at [jeano25@aol.com](mailto:jeano25@aol.com).

## Genealogy Class

Genealogy II will be offered at Collin College (formerly CCCC) on Tuesday nights from 2/2 to 3/23 from 6:30-9:00 pm at the Courtyard Center in Plano. The instructor is Barbara Coakley.

In the class you will learn what records are available, where to find them, how to analyze and evaluate the records you find and what they tell you. The areas we focus on are land, tax, military, court, probate & wills, immigration, and naturalization records. In addition, you'll learn about writing research reports.

To register visit the college's web site <http://www.ccccd.edu/ce/index.html> or call 972-985-3711—CRN 74043.

## Newsletter Articles

We need you—write a storey about your family, a short description of a record you found, how you organize your genealogy, an interesting library, courthouse or archive you visited, etc. Submit articles in word document format to Barbara Coakley at [bjc1620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjc1620@sbcglobal.net).

## Learn-N

Join us on February 27th from 10:30 to 12:30 for two new classes.

Carol Hofer will present “Using FamilySearch.org Research Outlines to Guide Your Reserach”

&

Barbara Coakley will present “Genealogy—Getting Started”

Space is limited so if you plan on attending please email Linda Cospser at [s-lcosper@juno.com](mailto:s-lcosper@juno.com).

A \$10 donation is suggested. The money is used to purchase materials for the Genealogy section at the Haggard Library.

## 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.

Her columns are also available in the column archives at <http://tracingourroots.weebly.com/2009-index.html>

## Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts—New Colors & Styles

Be one of the best-dressed genealogists in town.

In addition to the ever popular Gen Friends logo t-shirts and sweatshirts, we now have 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 (white, neutral, ash, light blue, pink, yellow and sand) \$15.00

Sweatshirts (white, neutral, ash, light blue, pink, yellow. light green or sand)\$20.00

Henley's (white, ash or natural) \$20.00

Polo Shirts (white, ask or light blue) \$20.00

Long Sleeved T-shirts (white, natural, ash, light blue, pink, yellow or sand) \$18.00



## Websites

The Newberry Library has an Atlas of Historical County Boundaries on their website. You choose a state and date and a map is displayed showing the county boundaries at the time. You can overlay the map with modern county boundaries, modern county names, etc. There are also chronologies available.  
<http://www.newberry.org/ahcbp/index.html>

Courthouses that were destroyed affect all of our abilities to find the records we need. The Kentucky Department for State Libraries and Archives provides a list of disasters on their website. Don't forget that just because there was a disaster it doesn't mean that there are no records. Records may have been recreated, copies may exist at another location, seldom was every record in the courthouse destroyed at one time. Don't give up keep looking.

<http://www.kdla.ky.gov/resources/kycourthousedisasters.htm>

The Interstate Commerce Commission has a website that contains information on Railroad accidents—both fatal and non-fatal. The website covers 1911-1994

<http://dotlibrary.specialcollection.net/>

Newspapers are a valuable source of information. Use the Library of Congress site to locate papers that were published in your area at the time you are searching.

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

### Ancestry Wildcard Changes

Finally you don't have to have 3 characters in front of a wildcard when you do a search on Ancestry.com. Use wildcards to catch mis-spellings of your ancestors' names.

You can put the wildcard \* or ? first.

Either the first or last character has to be a letter

You have to have at least 3 non-wildcard characters

Here are some examples:

?iebold or Ziebol? for the name Ziebold—I've found it spelled Ziebold, Ciebold and Ziebolt.

Br?y for Brey which is often misspelled Bray.

## Legacy Users Group

The Legacy Family Tree users group meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Haggard Library in the Program Room from 10:30 to 12:30.

Contact Joanne Corney at [ptxlegacyug@verizon.net](mailto:ptxlegacyug@verizon.net) for more information.

## 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

## Join Genfriends

Time to Renew Memberships! Or if you aren't a member, please consider joining Genfriends. The money we raise is used to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

Individual memberships are \$30 and family memberships are \$50.

Dues year runs from October 1 to September 31.

## Brick Walls 101

By Brenda Kellow

Finding family is exasperating when you stumble upon two men named John Blue. One is Sr. and the other is differentiated as Jr. Yours has a young family. He can't be the son of John Blue Sr. because your John's father is William Blue. So why differentiate him as Jr. They are not father and son? Are they related?

Abbreviations mean different things today than it did then. Sr. just means there is a person in the same community who is older than the man having the same name. Jr. is the younger of the two. It does not imply a relationship. Sometimes they might be related, but never assume it is often the case. Irritating as it is, once Sr. dies Jr. will be identified as Sr. Furthermore, it could be implying they are uncle and nephew. It is necessary to search official records to correctly identify and distinguish the men. Otherwise you may spend valuable time climbing someone else's family tree.



Courthouse searches are for everyone, both new and seasoned researchers. They are some of the most important records for family research. Use these documents as proof. Death records, wills and probate documents help solve family relationships. Death records usually name the parents but these were recorded in the early records. Wills have relationships and usually gives the names of relatives, but this is not always the case. A husband may leave everything to his beloved wife and seven children without giving their names. Along with wills are administrations, inventories, administrator bonds, estate settlements, lawsuits, and order or minute books. If land is given there should be a deed. If this is the case then the entry may read something like, "I give to my daughter and son-in-law for love and affection." This is most certainly proof of relationship. Find the deed. Probate can prove relationships not found elsewhere.

Marriage licenses declare the marriage; give the date of marriage and the name of the minister or Justice of the Peace. Conversely, marriage returns just show that the couple intended to marry but they may not have actually made it to the altar.

Land records, in my opinion, are one of the most valuable tools for genealogists researching before the twentieth century. It is surprising some of the documents found within these. Read the deeds and take notes. Find the deed by looking in the index. These are recorded by the seller and the purchaser. The seller of the land is the direct index or grantor index. The buyer is found in the indirect index or the grantee index. The instructions for using land records are in the front of the books and may vary from one courthouse to another.

Two pitfalls, probably the most common ones, are taking as fact every story told by the family and using other people's genealogy as gospel. Accepting these unconditionally and passing them along to others perpetuated wrong information passing down through the years. You must document.

Finding children living with a family in the censuses from 1850-1870 does not mean they are the couple's children. They could be nieces or nephews, or children of deceased family members. Never assume. Beginning with the 1880 census is the first time the census gives relationships.

Unfortunately, cemetery indexes are usually alphabetical rather than in sections. If you do find one in sections, or visit one in person, often family are buried in clusters. It is common to find a couple buried next to the

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Brick Walls 101

*(Continued from page 4)*

wife's relatives, but this is not always the case. Search the same surnames in the alphabetical indexes to see what cemeteries they are buried in and compare its location to that of family property.

States encyclopedias are often found online. Texas' is the *Handbook of Texas* and Florida's is the Floripedia. These usually include information such as crops in the 1800s, the cattle industry, wars fought in the state, the bee industry which was common in early days, and climate changes to name only a few. It is important to know these things when your ancestors lived in the state.

If you try stumble around the brick wall then you may never find the answers on the family you are searching. When necessary you will benefit by using genealogical dictionaries and Black's Law to better understand this subject. Take classes at the local community college and attend genealogical events to better educate yourself. None of us were born knowing how to research. Study, learn and apply the information and you will succeed by knocking holes in those brick walls.

