



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

July 2006

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

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl>

<http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghl>

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcolli3>

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Newsletter: Barbara Coakley bjc1620@sbcglobal.net

Saturday Seminars & Lock Ins

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

August 19, 2006—We'll have two speakers. Frank Reisch will talk to us about **The Folk, Music Tales & Humor of The Pennsylvania-Dutch** and Barbara Coakely will discuss **Searching for Ancestors in Germany**.

September 16, 2006—All Day Seminar—Lloyd Bockstruck will be speaking on Colonial Topics.

October 21, 2006—Thinking about joining a lineage society? Representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, and more will tell us about their societies and answer our questions.

October 27, 2006—Lock In—Using Computers in Genealogy. See article on page 2.

November 18, 2006—Richard Preston will talk to us about Migration Patterns.

December 16, 2006—Annual Show and Tell.

If you have suggestions for programs for 2007 please submit them to Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net

2007 Research Retreat to Washington DC

Genealogy Friends will be sponsoring a trip to Washington DC in October 2007. You will have an opportunity to research at the National Archives, Library of Congress and the Daughters of the American Revolution Library. Orientation sessions will be held at each institution. If you are interested please contact Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net. More information will be available at a later date.

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

Lock Ins

Lock Ins are held at the Gladys Harrington Library. Registration begins at 5:30, the library closes to the public at 6:00.

Suggested donation is \$10.00. Pizza, drinks and cookies are served at 7:00 for an additional \$4.00.

Lock Ins are a great place to learn in small groups. Participate in classes, get help with a research consultation, or use the resources available to do your own research.

A Plano Library Card and Internet Registration are required prior to 5:30 pm to use library computers.

October 27th—Using Computers in Genealogy

Classes to be determined.

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

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

Book Exchange

Genealogy Friends would like to exchange Collin County books with books from other societies.

If you have an area or society you would like us to try and exchange with, please contact Joy Gough at jfar-go@comcast.net.

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>.

Researching German Records

By Brenda Kellow, CG

Researching German family history records is a popular topic, and somewhat difficult. Germany has extant records for the nobility and the common people, but they are difficult to acquire. There are reasons for this. The Germanic borders of today, and yesterday, have been greatly affected by wars, politics and religion. These boundary changes even affected the language in which the records are kept. The German language was used to record some of the records, but not all. The Catholics used Latin, while the eastern and western area records used German, French, Polish or Russian.

Although some of the church records began in the early 16th century, civil registration records for births, marriages and deaths for the major population was not mandated until 1876. These were kept in no specific place. The local congregation kept their records. The military parishes kept theirs. But sometimes the local predominant church maintained the records.

Few commoners are found in the deed records because the nobility or wealthy owned the land. These are kept in the archives and are best accessed in person or by a professional researcher.

Emigration was from many areas along the coast, but the main ports of departure were from Bremen (records destroyed in WW II) and Hamburg (1850-1934, the indexing varies).

Military records are by regiment, or by ship for the navy, and are generally kept in the archives where the soldier lived. To find the regiment, one should consult the military church books.

Sound impossible? There are several popular aids to help eliminate some of the difficulty. I have four favorites. One is the CD-ROM originally by Broderbund and sold by Genealogical Publishing Co., entitled "German Genealogy Research Guide." (Yes, I still use CDs and microfiche for my research.) Included on the disc is Angus Baxter's sourcebook, "In Search of Your German Roots: A Complete Guide to Tracing Your Ancestors in the Germanic Areas of Europe." I particularly like Baxter's publication because he first identifies the best sources for easy access. Then he progresses to the more difficult topics such as parish registers, wills, censuses, vital records, passenger lists, etc. He also includes changes that occurred after the unification of East and West Germany such as addresses using the new five-digit postal code, etc.

Another indispensable source for identification of German-related archives, libraries and other facilities in Europe and the United States is Ernest Thode's, "Address Book for Germanic Genealogy."

The third book included on the disc, "German English Genealogical Dictionary" by Ernest Thode is perfect for the researcher with no knowledge of German. All the words were chosen on the basis of their association with genealogy.

The fourth and final book is George F. Jones' "German American Names." It contains just what the title suggests. It is a dictionary of German American names. It gives spellings, meanings and variants of approximately 15,000 names.

What does this mean for you? It means that with this CD even the novice should be able to make a word-by-word translation of most any document; research various names and their variants; quickly and easily identify the repositories; and, ascertain the identity of the various changing borders and their affects on locating documents. This is certainly a handy tool at a modest price for conducting German research.

(Continued on page 4)

Researching German Records (cont'd)

(Continued from page 3)

Or, if you don't want the CD, can't use one, etc., check the library for the books I mentioned. They are also available for purchase online through Genealogical Publishing Co, Inc. (GPS) I sometimes call them on the phone to place an order, but mostly I order over the Internet. The phone number is 1-800-296-6687. Their Internet address is <<http://www.genealogybookship.com>>.

Before you place your order be sure to know the name or names of the book(s) you are ordering and the authors. If you are using the Internet, go there and search for each book. Add your selections to your Basket, then proceed to checkout. I always sign up for fast and quick ordering for the future. I fill out the necessary information, add my credit card name, number and expiration date, and click OK. The next time I return to GPS to buy a book, my information is on record with the company and all I have to do is click, click, click.

So if CDs become outdated so quickly with all the computer updating that is done so frequently to insure we buy new computers, why do I continue to use CDs and microfiche for research? It's an issue of economy and storage. One CD, film, or fiche may contain 15 to 40 books and cost only about \$30-\$45. If I purchased all the books on one CD, film, or fiche it might cost into the hundreds of dollars. Another reason is that years ago I bought microfilm with images of many reference books, out of print books, and even family surname collections. These to me are priceless!

The shelving space and book cases required to hold books takes lots of room, not to mention the cost of book cases. I don't think any of you will argue that genealogy takes money, space and time. CDs are more economical and take less space than books. I keep one computer (actually Bob is using it in his radio room at the moment) in my research center so that I can work on microfilm, microfiche or CD/DVDs and record information right into the computer. I save my research on a DVD for uploading onto my office computer, or I email the research in an attachment to my office computer. This saves writing it down on paper and walking into my office to record it on my office computer. If you can network with various computers in your house, transferring the information from research center to my office computer is a snap.

Research using CDs, film and fiche do not replace 'hard core' library and Internet research, it just enhances my research opportunities.

Gen Friends Web Sites

Volunteers from Genealogy Friends maintain three web sites to provide information for you:

Collin County, Texas Past Finders Photo Collection. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcolli3>. The web site now contains over 3,400 photographs. Categories include Cemeteries, Churches, Schools, People, Places, and Tombstones. If you would like to contribute photos of Collin County subjects, contact Joy at jfarrgo@comcast.net.

History and Genealogy for the Active Researcher located at <http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghl>. The goal is to expand the knowledge of those researching in Collin County and North Texas. Check out the timeline—a daily calendar of events in Collin County through the years. There is also a biography of Gladys Harrington.

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries Website <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl>. This page contains information on membership, the calendar of events, copies of past newsletters, etc.

Digital Collections

Dreanna Belden spoke to us in January. She was kind enough to provide a list of digital collections. This is a continuation from the June Newsletter.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania State Archives

<http://www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/>

Pennsylvania History Online—Collaboration between Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Free Library of Philadelphia, Penn State University Libraries, State Library of Pennsylvania

<http://www.statelibrary.state.pa.us/libraries/cwp/view.asp?a=88&Q=75694>

Philadelphia Historical Digital Image Library

<http://jeffline.tju.edu/archives/phdil/phdil.html#1>

Rhode Island

Images of Rhode Island—Dozens of public libraries in Rhode Island have contributed photographs of their area.

<http://www.quickpix.com/library.html>

South Carolina

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

<http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/pilotintro.htm>

South Carolina Digital Collections Project—In the planning stages. Will link collections throughout the state.

<http://pascal.tcl.sc.edu/programs/digilib/pascaldigitaldesc.htm>

South Dakota

South Dakota Memory

<http://sdmemory.library.sd.gov/main.htm>

Tennessee

Volunteer Voices Preserve and Share Tennessee History and Culture

<http://www.volunteervoices.org/index.html>

Texas

The Portal to Texas History—Over 25,000 pages of Primary Source material

<http://texashistory.unt.edu/>

Gammel's The Laws of Texas (1827-1897) - 16,500 pages on early Texas Law.

<http://texinfo.library.unt.edu/lawssoftexas/>

Texas Tides -Over 10,000 pages of documents relating to early Texas history.

<http://tides.sfasu.edu/home.html>

Texas Treasures from the State Library and Archives Commission

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/index.html>

UT Austin's Digital Library—Perry-Castaneda maps and other collections

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/dlp/index.html>

Texas Tech's Southwest Collection

<http://swco.ttu.edu/>

Walker County Treasures—5000 historic photographs

<http://www.walkercountytreasures.com/>

Austin Treasures

<http://www.cityofaustin.org/library/ahc/exhibit.htm>

Tarleton State University

Cross Timbers Historic Images

<http://www.tarleton.edu/~crosstimbersimages/>

Dallas Public Library, Murphy & Bolanz Collection (Dallas Real Estate Maps)

<http://dallaslibrary.org/CTX/murphyandbolanz/home.html>

Digital Collections (cont'd)

(Continued from page 5)

Nesbitt Memorial Library (Columbus, Texas)

<http://www.columbustexas.net/library/images/imagemenu.htm>

Photo History of Pasadena, Texas

http://www2.sjcd.edu/reddot/sjcd_web/district/library/pasadena/index.cfm

Galveston and Texas History Center

Rosenberg Library

<http://www.gthcenter.org/exhibits/storms/>

Victoria Regional History Center Historical Photograph Digitization Project

<http://vrhc.uhv.edu/photographs/photograph1.htm>

Utah

Mountain West Digital Library—Excellent site. Features diaries, maps, photographs and lots of old newspapers.

<http://www.lib.utah.edu/digital/mwdl/>

J. Willard Marriott Library Digital Technologies—Historical photographs, newspapers and maps.

<http://www.lib.utah.edu/digital/digcol.html>

Look at Brigham Young University's collection:

<http://www.lib.byu.edu/online.html>

Vermont

University of Vermont Digital Collections

<http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmdc/?Page=collections/collections.html>

Virginia

University of Virginia Digital Collections—A pioneer in digitization, over 80 collections featuring 2.2 million docu-

ments, photographs and maps.

<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwedo/digital.htm>

Virginia Center for Digital History—Valley of the Shadow, Virtual Jamestown.

<http://www.vcdh.virginia.edu/research.html>

Washington

Washington State Digital Library—Links to twenty collections

<http://digitalwa.statelib.wa.gov/>

King County Snapshots

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/imls/kcsnapshots/index.html>

West Virginia

West Virginia University OnLine Digital Collections

<http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/wvonline/digitalcollections.htm>

Wisconsin

The Great Lakes Maritime History Project

<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/GreatLakes/>

The State of Wisconsin Collection

<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/WI/>

Wisconsin Heritage Online

<http://www.wils.wisc.edu/widigital/>

Wyoming

Wyoming Memory

<http://www.wyomingmemory.org/>

University of Wyoming Digital Initiative

<http://digital.uwyo.edu/>

Collin County Bits—Mantua

By Joy Gough

Another early Collin County town was Mantua. Mantua was located near the Grayson County line about a mile southwest of present-day Van Alstyne and about 5 miles north of present-day Anna. It was created partly by the Collin McKinney family. No major roads went through the town. The Cedar Springs-Bonham Road turned east in the vicinity of Melissa. The McKinney-Sherman Road went west through Weston. There was a Mantua Road built in 1858 that connected the town with the Cedar Springs-Bonham Road. Traveling north on US 75 today, there is a sign for Mantua Road about 1 mile south of the sign for County Line Road. The road is all that is physically left of the town.

In 1854 200 acres of land were bought from one of Collin McKinney's sons for the establishment of a college known as the Mantua Seminary. The Mantua Seminary was open to male and female students. The classes taught were much like today's high school classes and cost from \$10 to \$20 a session.

Part of the 200 acres of land was divided into town lots and sold to help finance the school. The restrictions on the town were that there were no liquor sales, no gambling and no horse races. Anyone who violated these rules would lose his land. The first town lot was sold to Horatio Walcott, who opened the first store. Drs. James Leslie and Rollins put in a drug store and J. M. Douthitt built a dry goods store. Dr. W. D. Lair bought a lot and began his practice of medicine there in 1857.

Mantua Masonic Lodge No. 209 was organized on February 7, 1857. The Masons sponsored the school, which conducted its classes on the first floor of the Masonic Lodge. At the beginning of the Civil War the lodge had 45 members, 36 of which joined the Confederate Army. Capt. Thomas H. Bowen was the officer in charge of the Mantua Company of Mounted Volunteers, organized in June 1861.

A Christian church was organized in the home of Carroll McKinney in 1846. Collin McKinney was one of its organizers. It had 19 charter members, mostly members of the McKinney family, and was named Liberty Church. In 1854 a church building was erected in Mantua and the congregation moved there. The name was changed to Mantua Christian Church. In 1871 a larger building was erected.

A post office was established in 1858 with Elizabeth (Eliphalet) Rollins as postmistress. The post office closed in 1873.

The population of Mantua was about 50 in 1860 and reached 300 in 1870. When the Houston and Texas Central Railroad started working its way north through the area in 1872, it asked the town of Mantua to pay for the privilege of having the railroad go through the town. Mantua replied that since it was on a straight line between McKinney and Sherman, the railroad would have to come through the town anyway. It would not pay for the privilege. The railroad was built about 1 mile east of Mantua and the towns of Anna and Van Alstyne created along the tracks. Most of the residents and businesses of Mantua moved to Van Alstyne.

Mantua Masonic Lodge No. 209 is still in existence in Van Alstyne. The Mantua Christian Church divided into 2 parts with part of the congregation moving to Van Alstyne and part to Anna. In 1901 Prof. W. C. Satterwhite was the school teacher at Mantua. The school had 36 students.

A trip to the area today shows nothing but cow pastures. No buildings or anything exist to indicate that there was once a bustling town in the area. Some Boy Scouts did an archaeological dig of the town site in the 1990s. The results are at the museum in McKinney.

New Additions to the Genealogy Section, Gladys Harrington Library

The following books have been added to the Genealogy Collection at the Gladys Harrington Library:

- Papers of James Iredell, Vol. 1, 1767-1777 GEN 347.732634 IRE
- Story of Fayetteville and the Upper Cape Fear GEN 975.6373 OAT
- Drama & Conflict: The Texas Saga of 1776 GEN 976.4 WED
- Spoiling for a Fight: John S. Roberts and Early Nacogdoches GEN 976.4182 ERI
- Official South Carolina Historical Markers: A Directory GEN 975.7 OFF
- Notes on the State of Virginia: Thomas Jefferson GEN 975.5 JEF
- Collier Family History GEN 929.2 COL
- Wilmington: Historic Colonial City GEN 975.627 WIL
- The Old Corner, 1712-1964 GEN 381.45002 TRY
- Turmoil in New Mexico GEN 978.904 KEL
- When the Smoke Settled: Civil War Soldier Stories GEN 977.8883 WHE
- A History of African-American Families and Slaveholders in Cass Co., East TX, From the Colonial Days and Slavery to the 21st Century GEN 976.4195 WAR
- Port Jackson: An Erie Canal Village GEN 974.746 STR
- AT&T: Plano yellow pages, 2006 GEN 384.625 ATA
- More Brickwall Solutions to Genealogy Problems GEN 929.1072 MOR
- Pioneers of the Old South GEN 975 JOH
- Robert Terrell Collier: His Ancestors and Descendants GEN 929.2 COL
- Ancestry and Descendants of Sir Richard Saltonstall GEN 929.2 SAL
- The Black Experience in Revolutionary North Carolina GEN 975.600496073 CRO
- A Survey of Cemeteries in Chambers Co., AL GEN 929.50976156 MIL
- Historical maps of Ireland GEN 912.415 SWI
- Trivia: or A Collection of the Wit and Whimsy of Early America... GEN 817.108 TRI
- The Texas Division of the National Society Magna Charta Dames GEN 369.12 NAT 1976-1980
- Texas Society of the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century GEN 369.12 NAT 1985-1987
- History of St. Bartholomew's Parish: Pittsboro, NC, 1833-1983 GEN 283.75659 SMI
- A Compilation of the Descendants of William Wilson and Mary Leake GEN 929.2 WIL
- The Pirates of Colonial North Carolina GEN 364.164 RAN
- Guidebook to Revolutionary Sites in North Carolina GEN 917.56044 GUI
- Two Hundred Years of Student Life at Chapel Hill: Selected Letters and Diaries GEN 378.756 TWO
- Bygones and Survivors: Old Homes and Structures in and Around Pittsboro, 1787-1900 GEN 975.659 LON
- North Carolina in the American Revolution GEN 975.6 RAN
- North Carolina Continental Line in the American Revolution GEN 973.3456 RAN
- Davie County: A Brief History GEN 975.669 WAL

Library Additions (cont'd)

- Historic Preservation in Columbus, Georgia GEN 917.58 HIS
- The Stanly (Stanley) Family and the Historic John Wright Stanly House GEN 929.2 STA
- War of the Regulation and the Battle of Alamance, May 16, 1771 GEN 975.6 POW
- We Three Came West: A True Chronicle GEN 917.949 WET
- Cobb chronicles: An Overview of the Clan GEN 929.2 COB
- Revolutionary Soldiers in Alabama GEN 929.3761 OWE
- Early New Hanover County Records GEN 929.375627 MCK
- Ballots and fence rails: Reconstruction on the Lower Cape Fear GEN 975.62 EVA
- Papers of James Iredell, Vol. II, 1778-1783 GEN 347.732634 IRE
- Guide to Private Manuscript Collections in the North Carolina State Archives GEN 016.9756 CAI
- North Carolina Illustrated, 1524-1984 GEN 975.6 JON
- Chapel Hill: An Illustrated History GEN 975.665 VIC
- The Lee Genealogy GEN 929.2 LEE
- The Wrights of Wilmington GEN 929.2 WRI
- Harnett, Hooper & Howe: Revolutionary Leaders of the Lower Cape Fear GEN 975.62 WAT
- Chronicle of North Carolina During the American Revolution, 1763-1789 GEN 975.602 CRO
- Indian Wars in North Carolina, 1663-1763 GEN 970.456 LEE
- Bertie County: A Brief History GEN 975.6163 WAT
- Agriculture in North Carolina Before the Civil War GEN 630.9756 CAT
- Not a Conquered People: Two Carolinians View Parliamentary Taxation GEN 973.3111 NOT
- The National Society Colonial Dames Seventeenth Century GEN 331.7 TRA
- Greater Dallas: Yellow Pages, 2005 GEN 384.625 GRE
- Up the Trail in '76: The Journal of Lewis Warren Neatherlin GEN 636.213092 NEA
- Apprentices of Virginia, 1623-1800 GEN 929.3755 GIL
- Cape Cod: Its People and Their History GEN 974.492 KIT
- Pilgrim: A Biography of William Brewster GEN 973.220924 SHE
- Rowan County: A Brief History GEN 975.671 BRA
- The Revolutionary War Sketches of William R. Davie GEN 973.336 DAV
- Dare County: A History GEN 975.6175 STI
- War of 1812 Genealogy GEN 929.1072073 SCH
- North Carolina and the War of 1812 GEN 973.52456 LEM
- Society in Revolutionary North Carolina GEN 975.6 MAT
- Higher Education in North Carolina GEN 378.756 POW
- North Carolina and the Coming of the Revolution, 1763-1776 GEN 320.9756 BUT

Library Additions (cont'd)

- Old Wilmington Guidebook GEN 917.5627 JUN
- Annals of progress: The Story of Lenoir County and Kinston, North Carolina GEN 975.6385 POW
- North Carolina as a Civil War Battleground: 1861-1865 GEN 973.709756 BAR
- North Carolina in the Mexican War, 1846-1848 GEN 973.6209756 HOF
- Civil War Pictures GEN 973.7 COR
- On the Map: An Exhibit and Catalogue of Maps relating to Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay Honoring George Washington at the Beginning of the Third Century of Washington College at Chestertown, Maryland GEN 912.752 ONT

Thanks to Lynn Day for compiling this list.

Veterans Affairs Adds Maps to Grave Locator

VA adds maps to online gravesite locator Grave locations of more than 3 million veterans and dependents buried in national cemeteries can be found more easily now because the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has added maps of burial sections online that can be printed from home computers and at national cemetery kiosks.

The latest improvement builds upon a service begun two years ago with a VA online feature which permits family members to find the cemetery in which their loved one is buried.

"This new map feature makes it easier for families, friends and researchers to find the exact location of a veteran's grave in all national cemeteries and some state veterans cemeteries," said the R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "It enhances VA's service at national cemeteries, already highly regarded, and our commitment to them as national shrines and historical treasures."

The gravesite locator (<http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/>), online since April 2004, helps veterans' families, former comrades-in-arms and others find the cemeteries where veterans are buried. With the new online feature, people enter a veteran's name to search, click on the "Buried At" (burial location) link and a map of the national cemetery is displayed, showing the section where the grave is located.

In a related development, VA recently added to its database the cemeteries in which 1.9 million veterans were buried with VA grave markers. These are mostly private cemeteries. This addition brings the number of graves recorded in the locator to approximately five million.

Those with maps are in VA national cemeteries and in state veterans cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery if burials were since 1999. Beyond the 5 million records now available, VA continues to add approximately 1,000 new records to the database each day. VA also plans to add to its online database the exact locations of veterans' gravesites in the remaining state veterans cemeteries.

In the midst of the largest cemetery expansion since the Civil War, VA operates 123 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. More than 3 million Americans, including veterans of every war and conflict - from the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terror - are buried in VA's national cemeteries on more than 16,000 acres of land.