



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of  
Plano Libraries

July 2007

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[http:// www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl](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](mailto:bjc1620@sbcglobal.net)

## Saturday Seminars & Lock Ins

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

### Today's Topics:

**July 21, 2007—Martina Will de Chaparro will speak on the Victorian Mourning Culture followed by Gen Friends 10th Anniversary celebration.**

**Congratulations to Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. for 10 great years. During its first decade they have purchased over \$55,000 in materials, donated hundreds of books and volunteered thousands of hours for the genealogy section of the Harrington Library.**

Next Month:

**August 18, 2007—Planning—The Key to Successful Research by Barbara Coakley**

September 15, 2007—Lynne Darrouzet will be speaking on Copyright Law and Women & the Law.

October 20, 2007—"Perils, Paradoxes and Pitfalls in Probate Records" by Glen Kinkade, .

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 2008 please submit them to Barbara Coakley at [bjc1620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjc1620@sbcglobal.net)

## 2007 Research Retreat to Salt Lake City

Genealogy Friends will be sponsoring a trip to Salt Lake City this fall. We will be traveling to Salt Lake City on Tuesday, November 6 returning on Sunday, November 11th.

There is a block of rooms reserved for \$82.00 per night at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, to make a reservation call them at 1-800-366-3684. This is a great opportunity to visit the largest genealogy library in the world for the first time with others who have already been there. If you have already been there, it is an opportunity to research in the company of friends. Stay tuned for more information.

## Legacy Users Group

Joanne Corney is starting a Legacy Family Tree users group. The group will meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Haggard Library in the Program Room from 10:30 to 12:30. The first meeting is May 22, 2007. Contact Joanne at [ptxlegacyug@verizon.net](mailto:ptxlegacyug@verizon.net) for more information.

## Write A Book Challenge! Earn a \$5 Donation to Gen Friends

That's right. This offer is for members of Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. only.

**What do you have to do?** Write a biography of one of your family members, a history of a family line, or family newsletter, etc., per the few requirements below, and present it to Brenda Kellow to read, or you may bring it to the 2007 December Show and Tell program and win a \$5 donation to Genealogy Friends. Talk to Brenda if you have problems meeting any of the requirements below. E-mail her at [GenFriends@tx.rr.com](mailto:GenFriends@tx.rr.com).

### Requirements:

\* Book or booklet written on some phase of family history and published professionally, or you may "publish" off your own computer before December 2007's Show and Tell program. A hard cover is not required.

\* Requirements: At least ten (10) pages which contain:

Five (5) pages of text of your own composition and not composed by a genealogy program such as *Family Tree Maker*, *Legacy Family Tree*, etc. There is no limit on written text. If you have more than ten (10) pages, great! The text should contain the subject's vital information such as birth, death, marriage, and places where the event took place if you have that information. Text should contain some history such as the life and times of that period; how the time period affected the family; note if the female gave birth before the migration from one place to another, or did she travel while pregnant; the difficulty of traveling in wagons across the country and over the mountains; or crossing rivers, etc. In other words, make it interesting to read.

Remaining pages may be of graphics such as photocopies of an original document such as a will, marriage certificate, obituary, funeral card, or pictures you have collected on the subject.

Have at least four (4) properly cited footnotes, endnotes (See *Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian*, by Elizabeth Mills. A copy is in the library.) You may also embed the source inside parentheses within the body of the text. The purpose of the citation is to document some of your findings and familiarize yourself with citing a source.

Title page should contain the family name. If you are covering more than one family surname, then follow the title with the other family surnames:

*The Jones Journal*

*With Related Lines of Kelly, Smith, and Valentine*

Donate one copy to the Gladys Harrington Library Genealogy Section and display book or booklet at the December 2007 Show and Tell Program.

The purpose of this challenge is to get you writing your family stories! You have until December 15, 2007 to complete the project. By beginning your writing with this challenge, you can earn a donation of \$5 per book or booklet to Genealogy Friends. It does not have to look like a high-end professional book. It is your book, your family. That is why the requirements are so generous and "writer friendly."

## Research in the Genealogy Section

The library is currently trying to determine traffic patterns in the Genealogy Section of Harrington Library. Please do not re-shelve the books you use, instead place them on the carts located in the Genealogy Section. Also, check in at the Reference Desk to let them know you are there. Traffic in the section drives decisions that are made about budget, hours, staffing, etc. It is important that we make our presence known.

### Websites

Your Folks.com provides a database of abstracted Catholic Marriages in Quebec Province.

<http://mesaieux.com/an/default.htm>

Index to close to 4,000 personal narratives from around the world.

<http://www.inthefirstperson.com>

Fototagger is free software you can download that will allow you to put captions on digital files.

<http://www.fototagger.com>

Cemetery Junction has listings of over 48,000 cemeteries. <http://www.daddezio.com/cemetery>

### 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

## Volunteer Needed—Grant Applications

Gen Friends would like to apply for grants to raise money. If you have experience completing grant applications and would be willing to help please contact Roberta Hendricks at [robertaclint@msn.com](mailto:robertaclint@msn.com).

## Changes Coming for Gen Friends

As you probably know, the Genealogy Section of the Plano libraries will be moving from Harrington Library to Haggard Library. The timing of the move hasn't been determined yet. Once the Genealogy Section moves, we will also be moving our meetings to Haggard Library which is located at 2501 Coit Road.

We are looking for a new location to hold our all day Saturday Seminar since we can no longer charge admission for events held at the library. If you know of a location that might work please contact Barbara Coakley at [bjc1620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjc1620@sbcglobal.net). The changes give us an opportunity to re-invent our society, stay tuned for more information.

## Colin County's First July 4th

By Joy Gough

In 1843 Jack McGarrah brought his family from Caney Fork, Tennessee, and settled on land three miles west of present-day McKinney. He called it Buckner. In that same year he began a trading post, primarily to gather hides and furs from the friendly Indians who inhabited the county. He later added a blacksmith shop. Soon a small fort was erected at the site to serve as a shelter from Indian attacks. John L. Lovejoy opened a General Store in Buckner in 1846. The Texas Legislature created Collin County in April of 1846 with instructions to establish a County seat within three miles of the geographical center of the county and call it Buckner.

On July 4, 1846, a band of settlers met at the county seat of Ft. Buckner (McGarrah's Trading Post) for a celebration. The first flag in the county was raised, the first county officials were elected, and the first soldiers, Stapp's Company, were organized to go to the Mexican War.

The polls opened at 8 o'clock in the McGarrah store and remained open until 10 that night. All morning the settlers came, some on horseback, some with the family riding in a wagon, all eager to spend the day with friends and to learn the news of all that had happened.

No one was quite sure about how to hold an election. After a lot of discussion, it was decided that slaves and women could not vote. Some felt that the old Indian, Spotted Tail, who had befriended the settlement by keeping away many of the Indians from the west, ought to be allowed to vote, but they were overruled.

The question arose as how to vote. Since the ballots would have to be sent to Austin, they needed paper and pencil. Looking about the store, McGarrah came up with a small pencil, but no paper. J. B. Wilmeth went to his saddle-bags for his copy of *Paradise Lost*. Carefully they tore out all the fly leaves with no printing and any half pages that were blank. These were cut into strips and this is how the votes were recorded. Most voters signed their names with an 'X'. There were no candidates; each person voted for whomever they wished.

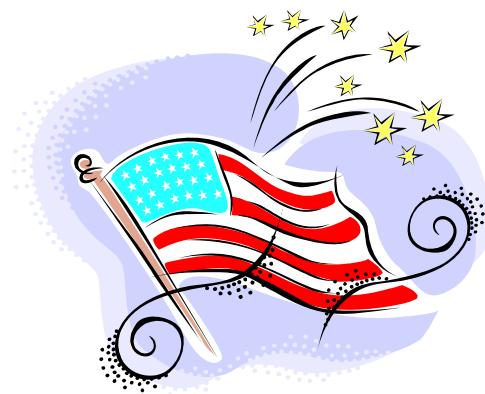
Zachary Roberts was elected Chief Justice, Tola Dunn was named County Clerk, Moses Wilson was District Clerk and King Custer was elected Sheriff. John Fitzhugh, Peter Lucas, Godfrey Baccus and John Wilson were elected County Commissioners. These were Collin County's first officials.

Jake Baccus was named Justice of the Peace. No record is found stating the salary these first officials received, except there is a note stating King Custer received \$100.00 for a year.

A short ceremony was held at noon and a flag was raised. At dusk, a sack of wheat bran that had been freighted in by John Lovejoy was spread on the hard packed earth in front of the store and everyone stayed on until late.

Andrew Stapp, who had been serving in the Mexican War, used this opportunity to organize a company of men to serve with Texas. Mounting a stump he reminded the pioneers that they were now a part of the great state of Texas, and Texas was at war. He had been authorized by the governor to ask for volunteers who were ready to join other Texans and march across the Rio Grande.

Anyone wishing to join was asked to go into McGarrah's store and put down his name. Sixty men rushed into the store. These first soldiers ranged in age from Charles Rice, who was 19 years of age, to Jonathan Allen, who was 45. Most were family men and land owners. Fourteen of these soldiers were lost in battle.

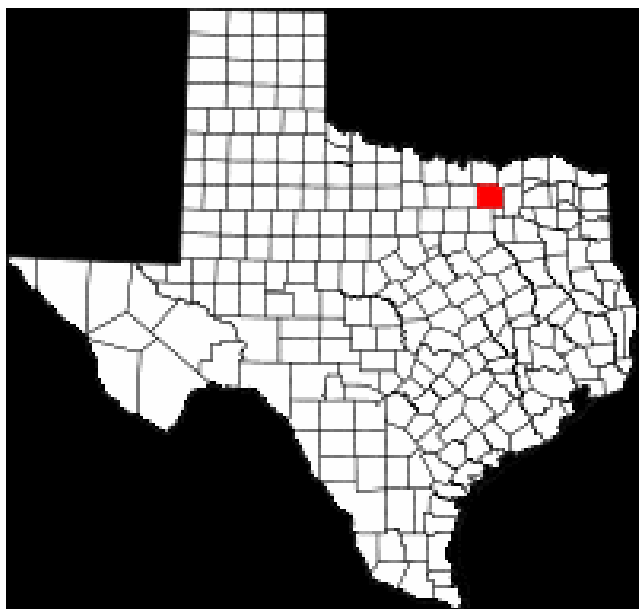


## The First County Seat, Buckner

By Joy Gough

On September 21, 1846, the newly appointed commissioners held an auction of lots in Buckner with the first lot going to Henry O. Hedgecoxe, for \$22.50 in cash. Hedgecoxe was the agent for the Peter's Colony of this area, through which much of the land was settled. The second lot went to Tola Dunn for \$26.00. Dunn went two years later to the California goldrush and died en route home. Others buying lots were James Herndon, H. G. Hendricks, Jonathan Allen and R. H. Barksdale. Each lot was 4,800 Square feet and the lots were laid out around a public square.

A postoffice was established at Buckner on November 25, 1846, with John (Jack) McGarrah the Postmaster, appointed by President Polk.



It was soon discovered that Buckner was not within three miles of the geographic center of Collin County as required. The Texas Legislature demanded an election with two possible sites for the new county seat. They named four Commissioners to select the sites: J. B. Wilmeth, Denton Darby, John Fitzhugh and William McKinney. Darby could not serve, so J. N. McReynolds took his place. The exact center of Collin County is actually on the flood plain of the East Fork of the Trinity River. The two places chosen were Sloan's Grove (south of McKinney a few miles near Fairview) and the present site of McKinney.

On election day, all the creeks separating the settlements were so swollen by heavy rain that had spread all over the low lands, that it was impossible for most people to get to the polls at Buckner. At the end of the day, ten had voted for the present site of McKinney. Godfrey Baccus managed to get to the polls at the last minute. He voted for the Sloan Creek site just to be contrary.

The Legislature named the new county seat McKinney, to honor Collin McKinney, one of the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence when Texas was trying to free herself from Mexico. He was also a moving force in settling the county. Interestingly, his home place was so far north as to be almost in Grayson County. His sons' land is in that county. Collin McKinney is buried in the Van Alstyne Cemetery.

John L. Lovejoy, owner of the General Store in Buckner, hired Mansel Wilmoth and James L. Reed to drag his general store to McKinney using 16 oxen. The feat was completed on May 3, 1848, thus establishing McKinney as the county seat. Buckner passed into obscurity. All that is left of the first county seat is the Buckner Cemetery about one mile west of US 75 on the north side of US 380.

## BUCKNER - McKinney newspaper, HISTORICAL VIGNETTES, by Helen Hall, November 4, 1976

The election we have just gone through was of wide interest, but no more so than the very first election held in Collin County on July 4, 1846.

Three months before, the Texas Legislature had created Collin County, and new officials had to be chosen from among the settlers.

Mansel Wilmeth had spent four days riding to all the settlements to notify each family of the election to be held on July 4. This in itself was a monumental task, for the settlers were scattered in the woods to the northwest and south of Buckner.

There were, of course, no roads or bridges. Everyone was invited to bring dinner to McGarrah's little store at Buckner and spent the day.

The polls opened at 8 o'clock in the store and remained open until 10 that night. Women could not vote, neither could the slaves who came, and after much discussion it was decided that the old Indian chief, Spotted Tail, who had more or less saved the settlement from marauding Indians, could not vote, either.

Another question that arose immediately was now to vote. Some insisted it should be by a show of hands or by voice, but they were over-ruled when they learned that the votes had to be written and sent to Austin.

Looking about the store, McGarrah came up with a small pencil, but there was no paper, something very few pioneers brought with them. Finally, J. B. Wilmeth remembered he had a copy of "Paradise Lost" in the saddlebags and brought it in.

Carefully they tore all the fly leaves with no printing and any half pages that were blank. These were cut into strips and this is how the votes were recorded.

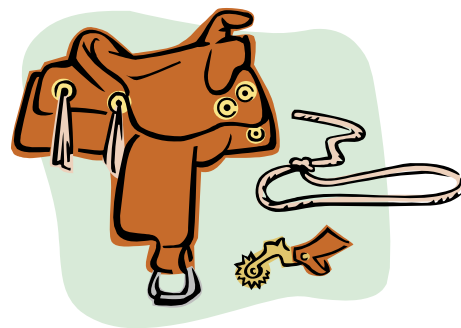
There is no record on how many voted, but since there were over 90 people at the gathering, perhaps a third of them were male voters. Old records show that many of the early settlers could neither read nor write. In this case, he would have someone write the name he was voting for and then make a crossmark himself, with some adding about the X, his mark.

There was no list of office seekers and many of the settlers received a few votes.

At the end of the voting, it was determined that Zachery Roberts had been elected Chief Justice (County Judge), Tola (called Tollie) Dunn was the new County Clerk, Moses Wilson the District Clerk, King Custer, a son-in-law of Rattan, Sheriff. The county commissioners were John Fitzgerald (Fitzhugh), Peter Lucas, Godfrey Baccus, and John Wilson

A short ceremony was held at noon and a flag was raised. At dusk, a sack of wheat bran that had been freighted in by John Lovejoy was spread on the hard packed earth in front of the store and everyone stayed on until late.

The first election, of course, was the one held June 6 of that year to decide the exact location of the new County Seat, but this was the first time officials were elected.



## FAMILY FARMS, MARKS, AND BRANDS

By Brenda Kellow, BA (History)

### Century Farms

More and more the subject of lectures, genealogy classes and articles pertain to recognizing and marking century farms across America. Certificates are handed out each year by the Family Land Heritage program to families who have continuously held the title to the land and worked the farm for over 100 years. Since 1972, the Texas Family Land Heritage Program Texas has been operating as an agency under the Texas Department of Agriculture. Most other states recognize and honor the property also.

Several years ago at a luncheon in another state, speaker Helen Leary presented a genealogy of her family homestead. She covered the various new additions added over the years, the remodeling from time to time, and all the owners identified from deeds. She even compiled the neighbors' names, and documented the street realignment. I found this a fascinating approach springing from family history research, but I had not previously thought of it in this light.

It is common practice to document and collect information on the sales and purchases of ancestors' land. Genealogists collect data on purchases and sales from the land offices and grants and donation parcels that may include several states. All of us collect this from the courthouses. I doubt few of us have done anything further with this information except to note it in research reports and genealogy computer databases. We do as we are taught—follow the land and the money. In my case, nothing further was suggested for using this information, so I tossed it in my files.

Now that I live on one of my ancestor's farm, I am inspired to use the deed searches from my previous research to write a genealogy of the property. I intend to find out what crops were grown on it during the past. I'm sure it was partially used for farming as well as for raising cattle because of the special fencing separating one pasture from another. There is an alley between the fenced pasture and cultivated farmland for the purpose of moving farm machinery from one area to another. There has not been any farming on the property for much of my lifetime. The property is now used for raising cattle, and we plan on continuing this tradition.

I have a picture of the old farmhouse that was torn down in 1986 and replaced with a new brick home for the resident family. From the courthouse I have acquired deeds going back to the formation of Collin County in 1846. Why didn't I think of writing a history of the home and property many years ago when I was gathering the information of my family living in this area? The information when presented to the Heritage Program will qualify for a Century Farm Certificate and plaque.

The Family Land Heritage Program, formed in 1972, recognizes farms and ranches that have been in continuous agricultural operation by the same family for 100 years or more. The Texas Department of Agriculture homepage states that the Family Land Heritage Program is "designed to recognize and chronicle the unique history of Texas agriculture and the men and women who settled this great state and continue the tradition today."

*(Continued on page 8)*

## FAMILY FARMS, MARKS, AND BRANDS (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

### Marks and Brands

Another valuable record available in the County Clerk's Office is the volume on Marks and Brands. The clerk registers the marks and brands and collects the fee for the process. Register entries usually include the name of the applicant and place of residence, a drawing of the brand symbol and description of the where it appears on the animal's body, the date of registration, and the line number. The register is maintained for a specified number of years and then closed. A new register is then started for another specified time period. Each mark or brand is recorded in each volume in the order in which it was applied.



To those living in cattle country, the more familiar of the two may be cattle brands, once used almost exclusively. Western movies tend to be the means for portraying cattle branding for the general public. In present day, branding irons have been replaced for marks appearing on the ear of cattle.

The branding iron is forged out of an iron bar with welded pieces on one end to form a pre-chosen and registered identification mark that distinguishes each rancher's cattle grazing on the open range. The iron is heated until it is red-hot and placed on the hide of the animal. After barbed wire fenced the west, branding was generally abandoned for marks. A cut or clip at the end of the ear is generally the spot for the mark or tattoo. It may be a geometrical shape cut into one or both ears, or an owner may even cut off a corner of the ear. Sometimes an identifying tag is attached to the ear in place of marks.

Following this means of identification in Saint Mary's County, Maryland, resulted in identifying the presence of a particular subject on specific dates. The date Robert Kadger filed his identification for his animals at the courthouse was January 25, 1650.

“Robert Kadger his marks for Cattle and hogs viz. the left Eare Cropt and too Slitts in the Crop, and the right Eare Slitt in the Middle only.”

[*Patent Series, p. 626, FHL #13063*]

Collin County has a register of marks and brands. If you have not researched this seldom used record, please look at the book in the local courthouse. Search for the register at the Clerk's Office or sometimes found in the county's agriculture agency. I would like to hear from readers who have used this source.