



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
June 2008

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

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

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

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

Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2008. Meetings are held in the Program Room at the Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd., Plano, TX from 10:15 to 12:30:

Today's Topics:

June 21, 2008—Richard Preston will speak to us about Migration Patterns. Ever wondered what route your ancestor took or why they moved from one place to another? Come listen to Richard for some potential answers.

Future Topics:

July 19, 2008—Cheryl Smith from the Haggard Library will be speaking on the Genealogy Collection and the online resources available at the library. We have access to a wonderful collection right here in Plano, come learn more about it.

August 9, 2008—Preparing for the Research Retreat in Salt Lake City—This seminar is for those of us who are going to Salt Lake City. We'll discuss using the Family History Library Catalog, Preparing a Research Plan, and Visiting the Family History Library.

August 16, 2008—"Beginning Genealogy" by Barbara Coakley. Whether you are truly a beginner or just want a "back to basics" refresher this class is for you.

September 20, 2008—"Convict Ancestors from England" by Dr. Steven Butler. Dr Butler spoke to us last year about the Mexican War, we are excited to have him back to educate us on another really interesting topic.

October 18, 2008—Dr. Jacob Blosser will speak to us about the History of Religions in America. Dr Blosser is an Assistant Professor of History at Texas Women's University.

November 11-16—Research Retreat to Salt Lake City

November 15, 2008—Bryan Lean, the curator of Collections and Exhibits at the North Texas History Center will be speaking to us about the collection.

December 20, 2008—Show and Tell—Bring all of your Genealogy Successes and share them with the group.

If you have suggestions for programs please submit them to Jean Funk at jeano25@aol.com.

Sixth Annual Research Retreat—Salt Lake City

Join Gen Friends members on our Sixth Annual Research Retreat to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for the opportunity to use the vast resources of the largest genealogical library in the world—microfilm, microfiche, books, and CDs from all over the world. The book collection of the Family History Library does not circulate, you have to visit Salt Lake City to use the huge collection of family histories, county histories, maps, reference books, and published records. If you haven't been there this is a great way to learn your way around. If you have, you can research in the company of fellow genealogy enthusiasts.

November 11–November 16, 2006

The \$80.00 Retreat Fee includes:

- Pre-Trip Seminar on August 9, 2008 from 10:00-12:00 at Haggard Library on Research at the Family History Library and Planning Your Research
- Library Orientation by FHL Staff on the afternoon of November 11th
- Seminar from a Professional Genealogist in Salt Lake City
- Block of Hotel Rooms has been reserved at the Salt Lake Plaza
- Individual and Group Consultations with Experienced Genealogists

Registration Deadline is October 15, 2008. If you have questions, please email Barbara Coakley at newsletter@genealogyfriends.org.

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

The Humanities Advocacy Network (http://www.humanitiesadvocacy.org/action_ctr.html) is asking people to contact their representatives (through its website) to prevent the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NPRC), the grant-making arm of NARA, from having a budget of *ZERO* for Fiscal Year 2009. A description of the NHPRC is at <http://www.archives.gov/nhprc> , and a state-by-state list of projects it has funded is at <http://www.archives.gov/nhprc/projects/states-territories> .

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

Education Opportunities

The following opportunities are available for you to continue to learn more about genealogy:

Genealogy Class Collin College

Genealogy II will be offered at Collin College (formerly CCCD) on Monday nights from July 7, 2008 to August 25, 2008 at Plano Senior High School. The Instructor will be Barbara Coakley. Register online at <http://www.cccd.edu/cs/areasofstudy/conted/index.html>

Genealogy III will be offered Monday nights from September 15th to October 20th. This class will include techniques for Breaking Down Brick Walls and a class project.

Legacy Users Group

Joanne Corney started 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. Contact Joanne at ptxlegacyug@verizon.net for more information.

DGS Summer Institute

"Call of the West" will be held July 24-26 at the J Eric Johnsen Main Library features lectures by Lloyd Bockstruck and John Colletta. For more information visit their website http://www.dallasgenealogy.org/fundraising/Summer%20Institutes/summer_institute_2008.htm

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>.

Genealogy Conference

12th Annual Angelina College Genealogy Conference
Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas
Friday & Saturday, July 18 & 19 * with two optional all-day sessions on Thurs, 7/17. To check out program, details, and registration form: <http://www.angelina.edu/genealogy.htm>

Note that a gremlin got on board and the registration form indicates you must make your session decisions ... NOT SO! Except for the Thursday optional sessions and the one 'special' all-day courthouse session, you can make your choices when you arrive or 'as you go.'

National Conferences

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference will be held September 3-6, 2008 in Philadelphia, PA
<http://www.fgsconference.org/index.php>

The National Genealogy Society 2009 Conference will be held May 13-16, 2009 in Raleigh, NC
<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/hotel.cfm>

Military Records Identify Military Individuals

By Brenda Kellow

Military records only identify individuals who served in the armed forces or their families. FamilySearch.com has an outline for finding those people who served our country from colonial times to the Korean Conflict. It is available to purchase in hard copy or you can download it as a PDF file. Using it is helpful in finding and reaching your goals for finding soldiers. Those new to military searches should find this informative and educational, but seasoned researchers use it also.

It is easy to use: Simply read the description of the content, use and availability of the most used records. In the Introduction is the reminder that the purpose is to identify personal information about military men and their units. It does not include any historical information about military institutions, weapons, battles or tactics. Begin by searching the Basic Search Strategies for a step-by-step guide. An informative Records Selection Table of available material in the Family History Library. Here you will find American wars in chronological order, but it does not mention all the military records that are available such as the Coast Guard and Air Force.

The guide gives the Basic Research Strategies in easy outline format.

- Identify an ancestor you wish to find in military records
- Decide what you want to learn
- Select a record to search from the helpful Records Selection Table
- Find and search the record

All of the states have a research outline describing additional general and military records. You have only to go to their website, <http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/guide/Military.asp#introduction>, to view the outline or print it out in a PDF format. With the computer becoming a part of all of us, carrying a hard copy may not be practical. You could save the guide to your computer to have with you wherever you research. To save it, download it and save it under U. S. Military Records Research Outline.

Records Selection Table

Once you know in which war(s) your ancestor may have served, use this table to decide which records to search. Use this table as a guide only. The information listed here is generally found in pre-20th century records, but each item is rarely found in every individual record.

Look in If you need	Service	Pension	Bounty Land	Draft	Cemetery	Soldier Homes	Veteran/ Lineage Society	Military Biography
Age								
Birth date								
Birthplace								
Children								
Death date								
Death place								
Spouse/ Marriage								
Military unit								
Occupation								
Parents								
Physical descrip- tion								
Residence								
Service history								

Records Selection Table taken online from FamilySearch.org, www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/guide/Military.asp#introduction
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Newspapers, A Wonderful Source of Information

By Barbara Coakley



If you aren't lucky enough to have a diary written by your ancestor, local newspapers are the best way to find information about their day to day lives. The first newspaper was published in Boston in 1690, it was shut down quickly and only one known copy still exists in the British Museum. By the Revolutionary War there was at least one paper in each of the colonies. Newspapers played a large part in swaying public opinion in favor of independence from Great Britain.

Newspapers continued to grow and in the 1830's advances in printing and papermaking technology led to an explosion of newspaper growth. Papers could be produced for a penny an issue which made the newspaper accessible to the masses. The availability of reading material is a major factor in the increase of literacy in America. By 1835 there were over 1,200 newspapers in print. The 1880 Census included 11,314 different newspaper titles.

In addition to the local papers, don't forget to check for other newspapers for groups your ancestor may have been part of—ethnic newspapers, union newspapers, religious newspapers, school newspapers, company newspapers. The obituary I found for Christian Hoffmeister in the German language paper in St. Louis contained his home town in Germany, the name of the pall bearers at his funeral, the year he was born and when he came to this country. The obituary in the English language paper told when he died and when his funeral would be held. If I hadn't checked the German paper I would have missed valuable clues.

Articles may appear in places other than where the event occurred. Check places where the ancestor lived before the event, places they did business, and places where family members lived at the time of the event. Gottlieb Ziebold died in Red Bud, Randolph County, Illinois. In addition to the obituary in the local paper in Red Bud I have found obituaries for him in Monroe County, Illinois where some of his children lived; in Moniteau County, Missouri where he lived before moving to Red Bud and where his brother still lived; and in St. Louis, Missouri where he bought grain for his milling business. The birth notice for the birth of a child born in New York City was included in the paper in Waterloo, Monroe County, Illinois where the maternal grandparents lived.

In addition to looking for birth notices, marriage notices and obituaries think about what other events might be mentioned that involved your ancestors. Social events including club meetings, parties, sporting events are all mentioned in the paper. Look for accounts of wedding showers and marriages; articles about the happy couple leaving on their honeymoon trip and returning; anniversary parties; divorces. Always check for names of out of town guests, they just might be relatives.

Check port cities for articles about arriving ships, passenger lists, accounts of ships' passages, and schedules and rate schedules for all modes of transportation—ships, river boats, railroads, stage coaches. Also look for comings and goings of your ancestors, leisure trips were often included in the Personals or Gossip sections of local newspapers.

Current events can complete the picture of what was going on that affected your ancestor, even if they weren't mentioned by name. If your ancestor served in the military look for accounts of battles, troop movements, political articles, etc. If there was an epidemic in the place your ancestor lived, look for accounts from that time. Check the weather on days when important events took place.

If your ancestor was a farmer look for prices of crops. Ads from local stores tell you what kind of merchandise was available and what it cost. Look for ads from your ancestor's business or place of employment. Articles about the business might also describe events that affected your ancestor. Often court dockets were published in the paper, your

Newspapers (continued)

ancestor might have been involved in a court case.

In addition to obituaries, look for burial notices, notices of estate settlements, thank you notes from families, and tributes on the anniversary of the ancestor's passing. Look for ads for sales of real estate—heirs might be selling their inheritance.

Was your ancestor interested in politics or did they run for office? Look for election returns, sample ballots, political articles and letters to the editor. My great-grandfather was mayor of Waterloo, Illinois for ten years. The accounts of his elections revealed that he ran as both an independent and a democrat, had an opponent who joined the race at the last minute in one election, and mentions his accomplishments as mayor which included bringing electricity to Waterloo and building the water works.

Newspaper articles are written by reporters who have biases and opinions. Often papers backed one political party or the other so their reporting was slanted towards that party and its members. The accounts of the death of a collateral ancestor who was gunned down in Union headquarters in 1929 in Chicago were very different in the *Sun Times* and the *Tribune*. One paper extolled the virtues of John Clay for trying to rid the union of the Capone gang. The other described him as crooked and attributed his death to a feud between his gang and the Capone gang. He was killed in retribution for a killing of a member of Capone's gang. The Union also published a newspaper. The entire issue was devoted to him the week after his murder. I don't know if I will ever know the truth, but I have different perspectives of his life and death.

The internet is making it easier to locate microfilmed newspapers and is providing access to digital newspapers. The advantages of digital newspapers is that you can access them from home and many of them allow you to do every word searches on the content. If the papers you need haven't been digitized you can check catalogs of historical societies, state and local libraries, and state archives. If their collections include microfilm copies of the newspapers order them via Interlibrary loan on the website for the Plano Libraries <<http://www.plano.gov/Departments/Libraries/Sinterlibraryloan.htm>> or at the reference desk in the Genealogy section at Haggard Library. Look for newspaper indexes on genealogy society websites or book sellers. Also check footnotes of journal articles for mentions of newspapers and collections where they might be found.

There are subscription sites that specialize in newspaper collections including Ancestry <<http://www.ancestry.com>>, Genealogy Bank <<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/keyword.html>>, and Newspaper Archive <<http://www.newspaperarchive.com/Default.aspx>>. There are some sites that are available through the Plano Libraries—The New York Times, Pro Quest eLibrary, Info Trac Custom Newspapers, Access Newspaper Archive, and Ancestry. There are also numerous sites that provide access to obituaries, articles and complete newspapers:

- Search on Google or another search engine for the name of the paper or location.
- Cyndi's List <www.cyndislist.com> contains 700 links for newspapers.
- The US Newspaper Program is a joint effort by the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities to preserve newspapers. Their website has links for each state to the repositories participating in the program <<http://www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html>>.
- Boston College Information Wanted is a database of advertisements placed by people looking for Irish immigrants in the *Boston Pilot* <<http://infowanted.bc.edu/>>.
- Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1841-1902 <<http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/eagle/>>
- The Richmond Daily Dispatch 1860-1865 has many articles about the Civil War from the perspective of the South <<http://dlxs.richmond.edu/d/ddr/index.html>>.

Good luck in your search for newspapers to fill in the details of your ancestors' lives.