



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
June 2009

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Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2009. 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:

June 20, 2009—Robert Deen will speak to us about Land Records Research

Future Topics:

July 18, 2009—Marjorie McMenemy will speak to us about her research.

July 25, 2009—Learn'N—Lynne Darrouzet is our speaker. She'll be presenting a case study on tracing neighbors and associates in Colonial Virginia and being able to infer relationships from that when there is no other evidence. The second hour there will be volunteers to help you take advantage of the extensive collection of Virginia sources available in the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

August 15, 2009—Leo Baca will speak to use about DNA. **Meeting will be held at the Gladys Harrington Library - 1501 18th Street, Plano.**

September 19, 2009—Brenda Kellow will speak to us about researching the Census before 1850. **Meeting will be held at the Gladys Harrington Library - 1501 18th Street, Plano.**

October 17, 2009—"City Directories, Newspapers, and Obituaries with the Census as Your Guide," by Barbara Coakley.

October 24, 2009—Learn 'N—We'll celebrate Halloween with talks on Cemeteries and Death Records.

November 21, 2009—Tresa Tatyrek will be speaking to us on Using the Internet for researching your Genealogy.

December 19, 2009—Show and Tell, come and share your Ancestors' stories with the group.

January 11-17, 2010—Research trip to Salt Lake City. Save the date and see page 2 for more details.

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

GenFriends Research Retreat

Save the date and start getting your research plan ready—our next Research Retreat to Salt Lake City has been scheduled for January 11-17, 2010.

This is a great opportunity to visit the largest genealogy library in the world with fellow researchers.

Rooms are being held at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel adjacent to the library. Room Rate is \$85.00 per night with one night free.

The dates of the trip coincide with the Utah Genealogical Societies 2010 Salt Lake Genealogy Institute. If you are interested in attending refer to their website <http://www.infouga.org/>

Collin College Classes

Barbara Coakley will be teaching Genealogy Research on the Internet will be held on Saturday mornings from 9-12 at the Courtyard Center, July 11, July 25, August 1, August 8, and August 22, 2009.

This fall Beginning Genealogy and Online Genealogy will be offered, 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

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>.

Vital Records Index

The Center for Disease Control has a website that contains links to where to obtain vital records for all 50 states <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm>. Follow the guidelines on the linked page <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/guidelines.htm> to ensure your requests are processed in a timely manner.

Episcopal Church Archives

The Episcopal Church has purchased property in downtown Austin to build a national archives. The facility will have space for research, meetings, and exhibits. This will provide a consolidated space for records and artifacts now housed in three sites in Austin, the Southwest Seminary and a site in New York City. Unfortunately this is a long term project, construction won't start for about two years. There are 2.2 million episcopalians in the United States today, think how many of our ancestors records might be there.

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 for more information.

Angelina College Genealogy Conference

The 13th Annual Angelina College Genealogy Conference - "Steps to Success" - will be held July 16-18 in Lufkin, Texas.

Registration form http://home.netcom.com/~chasg/Angelina2009/genealogy_registration_2009.pdf

Alien Case Files

Later this year, the Alien Case Files currently held by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services will be transferred to the National Archives when 100 years have passed since the birthday of the subject of the file. The files will be housed in the Kansas City and San Francisco regional archives. An index will be available. The files include photographs, personal correspondence, birth certificates, health records, interviews, visas, applications, etc. The files were created in 1944 on millions of aliens residing in the United States and those that have arrived since then.

Federal Employees Records

The National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis recently announced that they have opened more than six million files of former federal civilian employees from the 1800's through 1951.

To purchase a copy of a file, send a written request to NPRC, Civilian Personnel Records, 111 Winnebago St, St Louis, Missouri, 63118-4199. Include your contact information, the name of the former employee, date of birth, name of the agency they worked for, and period of employment. The cost for a file is \$20 or \$60 depending on the size of the file. You can also view the records by visiting St. Louis, however, you cannot make copies of the files while there. Appointments are strongly suggested since the research area is small.

TSGS Conference

The Texas State Genealogy Society Conference "Genealogy with a Mission" will be held November 6-7th in San Antonio. The conference hotel is the Omni. Featured speaker will be Craig Scott who specializes in Colonial and Military Records.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsgs/>

Dissertations

Candidates for Masters and Doctoral degrees' dissertations can be great sources of background information for family historians. I found a reference in the *Missouri Historical Review*, the journal of the State Historical Society, to a dissertation on Nodaway County, Missouri where my ancestors settled.

Prairie Trails, Iron Rails, and Tall Tales: The Settling, Town Building, and People of Nodaway County, Missouri, 1839-1910 covers 1800-1910 in detail. There are no references to my ancestors but contains valuable information that adds to my family history.

There was insight to early life in the county. Early settlers had to go to Liberty for supplies. It was an eight day round trip with an ox team and wagon. During the Civil War the ferry that crossed the Nodaway River discontinued service. The only way to cross were two crude bridges that spanned the river. Like many other places, the growth of the county seat was a result of the coming of the railroad. This was about the time my ancestors settled in Maryville.

The book is full of footnotes that site other sources that might further my research. There are references to the newspapers of the time, county histories, etc. The Bibliography is a ten page list of sources of information about the county.

The library has access to a database of over 2.3 million dissertations through Pro Quest. If you find one that interests you, order it through interlibrary loan or you can purchase a copy through UMI Dissertation Publishing http://www.proquest.com/en-US/products/brands/pl_umidp.shtml

Book on Care and Identification of Photographs

At the 19-Apr-2009 seminar -- Preserving Our Precious Heirlooms -- Naomi Taplin of the Texas Baptist Historical Collection recommended a book by James M. Reilly called "Care and Identification of 19th-Century Photographic Prints".

As Naomi indicated, this book appears to be out-of-print and is extremely difficult to find new or at a reasonable price.

While trying to locate a copy of the book, I found a recommendation to purchase the book from the Image Permanence Institute (IPI) at the Rochester Institute of Technology. It turns out that IPI was also sold out of the book (it wasn't listed in their online store) but since they were a potential seller of the book, I asked them about its status -- Is there another source for the book? Will it be re-printed? Do you have any contacts for Kodak publications?

I received an e-mail response which thanked me for my interest in the book and offered the following hopeful message, "[w]e are republishing the book, but do not yet have a set date. I expect it to be soon in the coming months."

While I was browsing at the IPI Online Store, I discovered another publication by James M. Reilly that may be of interest to members of GFPL. The booklet is called, "Digital Imaging for Photographic Collections: Foundations for Technical Standards" and it sells for \$15. The description for the booklet says that it "...identifies the key issues affecting image quality, clarifies the choices that must be made before taking on a digitizing project, and explores ways to measure digital image quality."

The IPI Website also features some free tools and documents that may be of interest to some.

References:

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

http://imagepermanenceinstitute.com/shtml_sub/downloads.asp

Erick Wagner

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

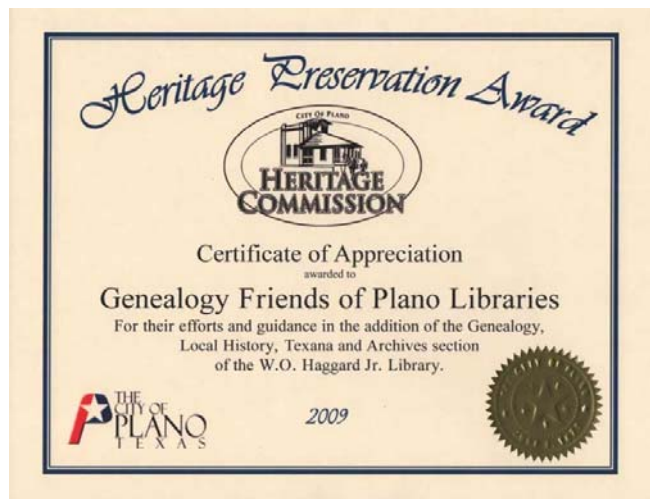
Join Now

Individual memberships are \$30 and family memberships are \$50—funds go to purchase materials for the genealogy section at Haggard Library. Dues year runs from October 1 to September 31.

Gen Friends Award

On May 28, 2009 Gen Friends received an award from the Plano Heritage Commission for our contributions to the Genealogy Section.

The ceremony took place at the Plano Heritage Farmstead Museum. The award will hang in the Genealogy section at Haggard Library.



Websites

Digital Book Index—this website is full of links to books available on the internet. You can search or browse the category links. http://www.digitalbookindex.com/_search/search011t-rev.asp

North Carolina Family Bible Records Online—The State Library of North Carolina and the North Carolina State Archives have added a new digital collection, North Carolina Family Records Online. The collection currently contains over 200 bible records and a six volume index of marriage and death notices that appeared in North Carolina newspapers from 1799-1893.

<http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/dimp/digital/ncfamilyrecords/>

Google News Archive Search —Allows you to search multiple digitized sources. There are charges for some articles. If you aren't in a hurry, you can use this to order the newspaper through interlibrary loan at the library, which may be cheaper. Also check to see if the library has a subscription to the site that you can access for free.

<http://news.google.com/archivesearch>

Google Patent Search—The Google patents search allows you to search patents granted. The search results include descriptions and drawings in pdf format that can be downloaded. You never know who might be an inventor. I was researching a collateral line and searched on the name on this site and found two family members who were granted patents. One was a tailor by trade and invented a “new and useful improvement to Cable Grips” in 1891. His son was a geophysicist and has six patents.

<http://www.google.com/patents>

One Step—This site is made possible by Steve Morse and provides simpler alternatives to the search engines on Immigration, Vital Record and Census sites. It also has a reference section that includes calendar conversions, dealing with foreign alphabets, etc. Lots of great information.

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

Ancestry has completed the Canadian Census for 1851-1916 (check FamilySearch.org for free indexes to some of these census records). Other new collections include the Alabama State Census (1820, 1850, 1855, 1866), US City Directories from the 1800s, World War II Draft Cards for Illinois, Brittany France Marriage Records 1536-1892, and New South Wales Calendar and Post Office Directory, 1832. Don't forget you can access the Library version of Ancestry free at Plano libraries.

<http://www.ancestry.com>

My Heritage—This is a site where you can share your family tree and photos. You create an account, enter or upload information, and invite family members to view your information. The free version allows you up to 250 people in your tree and 250 mb of storage. You can upgrade to larger accounts for a fee.

<http://www.myheritage.com>

How To—This is a free reference site that has a couple of how to's on genealogy.

<http://www.howto.co.uk/family/family-history-books/>

Wolfram Alpha—this has been described as a cross between Google and Wikipedia. It is in it's infancy so stay tuned to see if it meets expectations.

<http://www08.wolframalpha.com/>

Find Your Dead—This website is a case study in research of a family. There is a category index on the right side of the website you can use if you are looking for a specific “how to”.

<http://www.findyourdead.com/wp/>

Digital or Microfilm?

In the days before the internet, we used microfilm to do research. I had a recent reminder than sometimes the microfilm can come in handy even if the record is available on the internet in digital format. On a recent trip to Washington DC I visited the National Archives in search of a number of Civil War Pension files. There are indexes available on a number of different sites—Ancestry, Footnote, and Family Search pilot site. I had printed out the index entries from Footnote and thought I was ready when I walked into the Archives.

One soldier that I was looking for was not listed on Ancestry.com but I did find his pension index card on Footnote. When you visit the Archives, you have to complete a form to request a pension file. I carefully copied the information from the printout onto the form, had it checked and put it in the bin for the 10:00 record pull. Original documents are pulled at specific times during the day and approximately an hour later the records are available in the research room.

After storing everything but my copy card and researchers card in a locker, I went into the research room. When the person at the military desk told me that my request was incomplete I was not happy. Back to the reference desk I went. That was when I learned that the images on Footnote do not contain all the information that is on the microfilm index for Civil War Pension files. The Ancestry images do contain all the information but numerous searches under many different spellings had not resulted in an image on Ancestry. So back to the microfilm I went.

Microfilm publication T288 *General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934* is 544 rolls. The index is made up of cards arranged alphabetically by the soldier's surname. After a brief stop at the cabinet I settled in at the once familiar microfilm machine. Sure enough there was the soldier's card. On the bottom of the card was an additional number. This is known as a C or XC number.

There are two different indexing systems that have been used on Civil War pension files. Originally the file is kept under the application number that was assigned to the file when a soldier applied for a pension. After the pension office reviewed the application, if the soldier deserved a pension the file a certificate was issued and the file was now filed under the certificate number. After the soldier died, if his widow filed for a pension, the file was moved and filed under her application number. If she deserved a pension, the file was moved to the certificate number for her pension. At the beginning of the 20th Century the Pension office decided to stop moving pension files around. Any files that were still active were given a C or XC number and from then on that is how the file was stored.

I added the additional number to the pull request and an hour later, there was the file waiting for me in the Research Room, after making my copies I moved on to the next item on my to do list. I was lucky, some files with C and XC numbers are still with the VA and you have to write them for copies.

Sometimes being able to scroll through the cards you can find what you are looking for very quickly. On Ancestry you can't browse this record so you have to use the search features available. Footnote does let you browse however their images are from T289 *Organized Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900*. This version of the index is arranged by state and then by unit so you have to know the state and unit to find your ancestor.

The experience reminded me to be sure I understand the record I am using. I hadn't taken the time to look at the information about the database on Footnote so I didn't realize that all the information needed to pull the file might not be there. Reading articles about the record group can provide background information and save time when you are using the records. After the experience I did a search on Civil War Pension files and found a very interesting article in the Ancestry library that explained the filing systems. This was a gentle reminder than just because something is available digitally, sometimes it is faster and easier to use the microfilm version.