



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of  
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News  
June 2019

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

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## Schedule of Events

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2019. Meetings are held in the Program Room at the Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd., Plano, TX from 10:15 to 12:30 unless otherwise noted:

### Today's Topic:

**June 15, 2019**—"Identifying Old Photographs" by Betsy Mills

### Future Events

**June 17, 2019**—**OneNote Users Group**—Group meets in the Genealogy Section of the library from 7:00 to 8:30 on the third Monday of each month.

**June 25, 2019**—**Genealogy Friends Luncheon** - Macaroni Grill Legacy & 75, NW Corner 12:30 pm

**June 25, 2019**—**Legacy Users Group**—Group meets in the Genealogy Section of the library on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 1:30—3:30 pm.

**July 20, 2019**—"Techniques & Strategies for More Effective Searching Online" by Bernard Meisner

**August 17, 2019**—"BYU Family History Technology Lab" by Debra Hadfield

**September 28, 2019**—All Day Workshop—Speaker is Debbie Parker Wayne

**October 26, 2019**—Panel of Experts –Bring your research questions

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### 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 |

### Genfriends Membership

Our membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Individual memberships are \$30 a year and family memberships are \$50. Don't forget to renew your membership for next year.

The money we raise is used to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

Download the membership form on our website <http://genealogyfriends.org/news/> send it in with payment to

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc

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### Genealogy Education

**All Day Workshop** —September 28, 2019 GenFriends is presenting an all day workshop that focuses on using DNA in your family history research. Our speaker will be Debbie Parker Wayne, co author of *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*. Details will be available soon.

**Dallas Genealogical Society 2019 Seminar Series** "Their Day in Court" featuring Judy G Russell, JD, CG, CGL on August 3, 2019 at the downtown library <https://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/meetings-events/seminars/2019-summer-seminar/>

**Fort Worth Genealogical Society Summer Seminar** "Early American Research" featuring Debbie Duay on August 17, 2019 <http://www.txfwgs.org/>

**FGS National Conference** will be held August 21-24, 2019 in Washington, DC. <http://fgs.org/conferences/>

**TxSGS 2019 Family History Conference** will be held October 11-13, 2019 at the Omni Houston Hotel. <http://www.txsgs.org/2019-conference/>

**Dallas Genealogical Society 2019 Seminar Series** Featuring Jen Baldwin on October 12, 2019 at the downtown library <https://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/meetings-events/seminars/2019-fall-seminar/>

### Tracing Our Roots Column

The Tracing Our Roots column published weekly in the Plano Star Courier (available on the paper's website) and written by Genealogy Friends' member Brenda Kellow, covers a different topic or subject each week.

In addition, Brenda announces national events, fee increases in everyday genealogical records, new records added to the Internet and to genealogists' favorite sites.

The past topics are available for several years. Access the site at

[http://starlocalmedia.com/opinion/blogs/blog\\_7/](http://starlocalmedia.com/opinion/blogs/blog_7/). Brenda will add your name to her weekly announcement when her column appears online if you request it by emailing her at [bbkellow@verizon.net](mailto:bbkellow@verizon.net). You may also request topics for her to cover.

## Collin County Timeline

By Joy Gough

- June 1, 1886 Valdasta post office established
- June 2, 1873 The Texas legislature passed an act allowing Plano, Weston, and Farmersville to incorporate
- June 3, 1878 Sister Grove post office discontinued
- June 4, 1862 Charles Gough died returning home from war. Second burial in Rowlett Cemetery
- June 5, 1875 Charter granted to Rhea's Mill Masonic lodge
- June 5, 1878 Copeville post office established
- June 6, 1902 Rev. J. M. Cocke accepts pastorate of Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Farmersville
- June 6, 1909 Commercial Club of Plano held special meeting to try to get A & M branch
- June 7, 1878 North bound train derailed on the trestle over Wilson Creek killing one
- June 8, 1878 Pleasant Garden Primitive Baptist Church started in Blue Ridge
- June 9, 1885 First "Blue Law" enacted in Plano
- June 9, 1940 Flock of tornadoes near Celina
- June 10, 1850 Spring Creek post office established, James C. Vance, postmaster
- June 10, 1886 Wylie post office established and Nickelville post office closed
- June 11, 1914 Finch Park presented to the City by the McKinney Federated Women's Clubs
- June 12, 1894 Plano voted in prohibition
- June 12, 1902 IOOF lodge formed at Donna
- June 13, 1940 Lightning strikes Recer's barn near Climax
- June 14, 1868 Presbyterian church of Farmersville organized
- June 14, 1871 Lewis Peacock killed in the Lee-Peacock Feud
- June 15, 1858 White Rock Lodge No. 234 organized at Frankford
- June 15, 1861 Capt. J. M. Bound's Company of Collin County, Volunteer Infantry sworn in
- June 15, 1905 Lebanon post office discontinued
- June 15, 1916 Celina Mill and Elevator Company completed
- June 16, 1889 Fire burned southeast corner of Main and Mechanic Streets in Plano
- June 17, 1902 Convention of the 5th Senatorial District met in Farmersville
- June 18, 1887 East Fork Masonic Lodge No. 650 chartered
- June 18, 1902 IOOF lodge formed in Altoga
- June 19, 1898 Arch Weatherford set up watch repair service at Maye's grocery in Plano
- June 19, 1912 Princeton incorporated
- June 20, 1887 Maxwell post office discontinued
- June 20, 1903 Stock law election held in Melissa, Anna, Valdasta, and Westminster
- June 21, 1886 Pauline post office name changed to Frankford
- June 21, 1940 Twenty cases of measles in Verona
- June 22, 1902 Honaker Chapel dedicated southeast of Farmersville
- June 23, 1875 End of free-ranging in Collin County
- June 24, 1846 Capt. Andrew Stapp's Company of Mounted Volunteer Texas Rangers started in Collin County
- June 25, 1869 Robert Lee killed in the Lee-Peacock Feud
- June 26, 1902 Woodmen of the World picnic in Plano at the city park
- June 27, 1902 Firemen's Band picnic at the Old Fairgrounds in McKinney
- June 27, 1929 Foote House, a boarding house, destroyed by fire in McKinney
- June 29, 1858 Mantua post office established
- June 30, 1848 Peter's Colony contract expired
- June 30, 1863 Capt. D. C. Haynes' Company K of the Fifth Regiment of Texas mustered
- June 30, 1908 First car on the Interurban tracks in McKinney

## Rutabaga Johnson

By Barbara Battocchio Brogdon

**Recently, I was reading a mystery novel that was set in Austin, Texas, in the 1870s. One chapter referenced the Texas Homestead Law and its author, Rutabaga Johnson. Could there have been such a person? Or, was this purely fiction? Here's what I found on the Internet:**

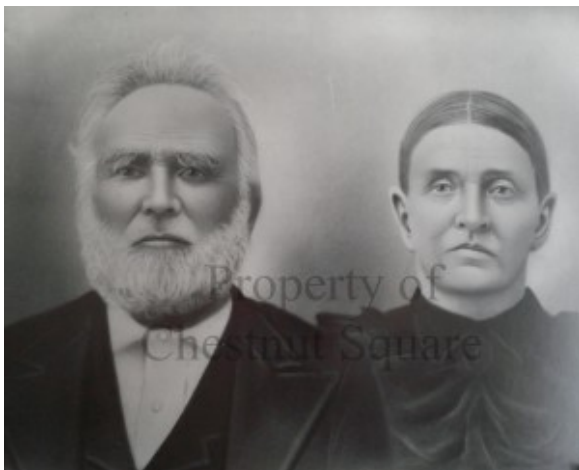
John H. Johnson grew up in Missouri and split rails as a young boy to support his mother and sisters after his father's death. John was fourteen when he left school and when he turned twenty-one he homesteaded a plot of land in Missouri. By 1861, he had turned it into a prosperous farm.

When the Missouri legislature voted to remain a part of the Union instead of seceding, he sold his land for a good profit and came to Texas. After purchasing two hundred acres east of McKinney, Mr. Johnson became an officer in the Confederate Army.

After the war, Captain Johnson represented Collin County and Grayson County in the 1875 Texas Constitutional Convention. He wrote the Homestead Bill that became law in 1876 when the new constitution was adopted. The Captain also served as a state legislator from 1883 to 1885 and two terms as a state Senator where he was known as Rutabaga Johnson.

He and his wife, Polly Kimsey, had thirteen children and the Captain was known for his fiery temper. His face and neck turned bright red whenever he got upset. Since he was often angry, his complexion earned him the name, Rutabaga Johnson.

Captain Johnson died in 1899, at eighty years old, and his wife Polly, followed him a year later. They are buried in the Johnson Cemetery in New Hope, beneath the tallest grave marker in Collin County. Their house remained in the family until 1987, when it was purchased by Chestnut Square. Still on its original site, it now serves as the bridal suite for weddings held in the historic village.



Source: September, 2005 Edition of "The McKinney News"