



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
March 2012

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Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2012. 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:

March 17, 2012—"Digital Photography for Genealogists" by Tony Hanson

Future Topics:

April 21, 2012—Mary Pfeiffer will speak to us about writing stories about our lives and those of our ancestors.

April 28, 2012—LearnN—Census Records—Topics will be "Census Search Strategies" and "1940 Census Research". We'll also have volunteers available to help you if you want to use the computers in the Genealogy Section to do census research. See page 2 For more information.

May 19, 2012—"Introduction to Heraldry for Genealogists" by David Appleton

June 16, 2012—Carol Taylor is our speaker. Her subjects will be Civil War Paper Trail and Unionists & Southern Claims Commissions Files

July 21, 2012—"Genealogists Go Mobile" by Sandra Crowley

August 18, 2012—"Early American Migration Routes" by Don Rainey

We are looking for topics and speakers for 2012 presentations, email Barb Coakley at [newsletter@ genealogy friends.org](mailto:newsletter@genealogyfriends.org)

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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
Colonial Ills, Brews & Concoctions	\$10
Library 101: Using Dewey Decimal Sys	\$10
Compiled Newsletters with Index	\$15

Genfriends Membership

Our membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Individual memberships are \$30 a year and family memberships are \$50.

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
PO Box 860477

Brenda Kellow writes a weekly genealogy column, Tracing Our Roots. you can read it online at <http://tracingourroots.weebly.com/>

LearnN

LearnN's are offered three times a year at the library. There are two one hour sessions. A \$10 donation is requested to raise money for materials for the Genealogy section of the library:

April 28—Census Records—in addition to the two classes we will have volunteers stationed in the genealogy section where you can use the computers to search the 1940 census for your family members.

August 25—Technology—topics will be available soon.

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts & Tote Bags

You can be one of the best dressed genealogists in town!

We have logo t-shirts, sweatshirts, Henley's and polo style shirts available.

The shirts have a 3" dark green logo printed on the left chest. All shirts are available in toddler through XXXL.

T-shirts \$15

Long Sleeved T Shirts \$18

Sweatshirts \$20 (white, neutral, ash, light blue, pink, yellow and sand)

Henley's \$20 (white, ash or natural)

Polo Shirts \$20 (white, ask or light blue)

Tote Bags \$17



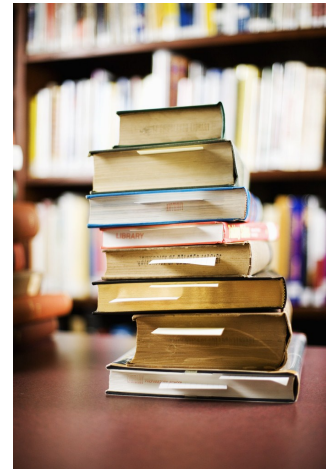
Library Volunteers Needed

The Genealogy section needs volunteers to help with indexing the Plano Star Courier, sorting through six boxes of the Wells collection to create a bibliography and scan images, data entry of information for digital collection. Think about all the resources you have used that were made possible by volunteers. We should all be giving back to the genealogy community. If you are interested contact Cheryl Smith at cheryls@plano.gov or 972-769-4240.

Donations to the Library

The following books are being donated by Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries and will be available soon:

- 1815 Directory of Virginia Landowners & Gazetteer—6 volumes
- Compendia; annotations of Washington Co VA cemeteries in 6 volumes
- Texas Naturalizations to 1906—12 volumes
- Virginia Final Pension Payments, 1818-1864 2 volumes
- Virginia Men in Gray Federick County
- Virginia Men in Gray Shenandoah County 2 volumes
- Virginia Men in Gray Clarke County
- Virginia Men in Gray Page County
- Virginia Men in Gray Rockingham County 2 volumes
- Virginia American Series Men In Gray Interments 4 volumes
- Virginia's Civil War Casualties a Roster 6 volumes
- Virginia Series Men in Gray Interments 20 volumes
- Applications for Enrollment of Creek Newborn—Act of 1905 Volume 1-4



HistoryGeo.com Available At Plano Libraries

Arphax Publishing Company is a leading Historical Reference Publisher specializing in original land-ownership maps. Since 2005, they have published original land owner map-books for 500 US Counties. HistoryGeo.com is the next step, online versions of these maps and others. Their map collection will be expanding to include maps from the entire world.



The library has a trail account that we can use until their subscription is finalized. This site is library use only so you have to visit one of the Plano Public Libraries to explore this great new site.

In addition to viewing these great maps you can take snapshots which are like bookmarks for sites within the maps, you can search the land owners, you can create migration maps and add custom markers where you can tell stories about your ancestors lives.

A Short History of Buckner

By Barbara Coakley

Historical marker application, 1978.

THE FIRST COUNTY SEAT OF COLLIN COUNTY

The actual beginning of Buckner goes back to April 3, 1846, when the legislature created Collin County out of the land that was a part of Fannin County. In this act, it said;

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“Be it further enacted That John McGara (sic), J. C. M. Hodge, Thomas Rattan, Ashley McKinney and Pleasant Wilson, be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners, whose duty it shall be to find the centre of said county, and select two places within three miles of said centre (having due regard to donations that may be offered by individuals) for a townsite for the use of the county; the commissioners shall then proceed to hold an election, and the place receiving the greatest number of votes shall be the county seat, and the place so selected shall be known and called by the name of Buckner; and the commissioners shall proceed to lay off said town and sell the lots therein, at public auction on a credit of twelve months.”

“Be it further enacted, That the proceeds arising from the sale of lots in said town, or other donations, shall be applied by the commissioners herein created, to the erection of public buildings for the use of said county.”

It is impossible to separate the history of Buckner and of John (Jack) McGarrah, its founder. He brought his family from Caney Fork, Tennessee, in 1843, stopping for awhile at the Throckmorton settlement which was the first settlement in the county, begun in 1842. It was the custom for wagon trains or any settlers to stop here and leave their families at the Throckmorton stockade while the men scouted the wild virgin land for a headright they wished to settle on.

McGarrah settled on land three miles west of present McKinney and in that same year began a trading post, primarily to gather hides and furs from the friendly Indians who inhabited the county. Soon a small fort was erected at the site, to serve as a shelter should Indians attack the settlement. Sure enough, there was an attack while the men were working on the fort. A band of about 150 Indians suddenly appeared. The seven men working stuck their rifles through the cracks between the logs, but did not fire a shot. The Indians kept retreating and coming back until dark. Indians never fight it night, so when dark came, they left and the men slipped away down to Throckmorton Settlement. This was only a few days before a Dr. Calder from Dallas stopped to talk with the men at Buckner, then had only ridden a mile or so when he was attacked by a band of Indians and killed.

On July 4, 1846, a band of settlers met at Ft. Buckner for a celebration. The first flag in the county was raised, and the first soldiers, Stapp's Company, was organized to go to the Mexican War.

On September 21, 1846, the newly appointed commissioners held an auction of lots, 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 McGarrah the Postmaster, appointed by President Polk.

John L. Lovejoy opened a General Store in Buckner in 1846. McGarrah ran a store and there was seen a blacksmith shop and Buckner was on its way. Peter's Colony brought in settlers, promising each a log cabin, musket and ball, and each married man could settle 640 acres. Peters' contract ran out in 1848, but they had added greatly to the settling

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A Short History of Buckner, continued

(Continued from page 4)

of Collin County.

The first election in the new county seat of Buckner was held on July 4, 1846, with the election held in McGarrah's Trading Post. No one was quite sure about how to hold an election, but after a lot of discussion, it was decided that slaves could not vote, neither could women. 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 and it was decided that since the ballots would have to be sent to Austin, they needed paper and pencil. No paper was at hand, but J. B. Wilmeth went to his saddle-bags and brought in his copy of *Paradise Lost* and carefully tore the white pages from the front and back into small strips. Ninety one people voted that day; many signing their name with an 'X'. There were no candidates; each person voting for whomever they wished.

Zachary Roberts was elected Chief Justice, Tola Dunn was named County Clerk, Moses Wilson was District Clerk and King Custer, a son-in-law of Rattan, was elected Sheriff. John Fitzhugh, Peter Lucas, Godfrey Baccus and John Wilson were elected County Commissioners.

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.

Buckner grew and prospered as much as a pioneer settlement could until it was discovered that it was not the center of the county at all and the Legislature demanded an election with two possible places to vote upon. The Legislature named four Commissioners to select the sites to be voted upon; J. B. Wilmeth, Denton Darby, John Fitzhugh and William McKinney. Darby could not serve, so J. N. McReynolds took his place. The two places chosen were Sloan's Grove 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 Buckner. At the end of the day, the vote stood 11 to one for the present site of McKinney. The Legislature named the new county seat McKinney, to honor Collin McKinney, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence when Texas was trying to free herself from Mexico. He was also a moving force in settling the county.

John L. Lovejoy, owner of the General Store, hired Manse Wilmeth and James L. Reed to drag his store from Buckner using 16 oxen. The feat was done on May 3, 1848, and Buckner passed into obscurity.

1940 Census

The 1940 US Federal Census will be released on April 2, 2012 at 9:00 am Eastern time. The images will be available at <http://1940census.archives.gov/>. You can watch a video about the 1940 census on the website now while you are waiting.

There will be no indexes available when the images are released. There is a volunteer project to create an index. To sign up to help index visit <https://familysearch.org/1940census>. If you want to help but aren't sure how to get started, join us on March 31, 2012 in the Genealogy Section at 10:30. We'll walk through how to sign up, download the indexing software and indexing.

To use the census you'll need to know the Enumeration District where you family lived. There are tools to help you on Steve Morse's website—<http://stevemorse.org/#us>. If you family didn't move between 1930 and 1940 there is a tool to convert the enumeration district from the 1930 census to the equivalent in the 1940 census. If you have an address (you could use a City Directory to find the address) there is a tool to tell you what the enumeration district is.