



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
February 2013

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

[http:// www.genealogyfriends.org](http://www.genealogyfriends.org) <http://genfriends.blogspot.com/>

Email Address: genfriends@genealogyfriends.org Newsletter: Barbara Coakley newsletter@genealogyfriends.org

Phone 972-836-9436

Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2013. 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 16, 2013—"How to Find Your Ancestor's Maiden Name" by Don Raney

Future Topics

April 20, 2013—David Coy will speak to us about capturing life stories.

May 18, 2013—Lynell Moss will speak to us about the new Family Trees on FamilySearch.org.

June 15, 2013—Barbara Gibson will speak to us about her families migration from Arkansas to Texas.

July 20, 2013—JT McKinney will speak to us about Funeral Home Records."

August 17, 2013—"Ten Tips to Break Down Brick Walls" by Barbara Coakley.

September 21, 2013—Will be announced at a later date.

If you have an idea about a program or a speaker for 2013, email Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net.

Index

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Announcements | 2 |
| Collin McKinney | 3 |
| Donations to the Library | 6 |

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 |

Class on April 3rd

On April 3rd, the library will holding a class, "Creation of Collin County: Find out how the Peter's Colony arrived in Texas and how Collin County was carved from Fannin County". The class will be presented by Randy Farmer. He is the author of "From Blackland Prairie to Blacktop: a History of Collin County". By the way, Collin County began on April 3, 1846. Come hear Randy Farmer tell how it all began. Genealogy, Local History, Texana, and Archives Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd, Plano, TX 75075.

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
Plano, TX 75086-0477

RootsTech

RootsTech 2013 conference will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah March 21-23rd. They are streaming videos at their website of some of the sessions. You can attend lectures by national speakers without leaving the comfort of your own home. They will be posting the recordings after the conference if you can't make it during the live streaming you can watch them later.

<http://rootstech.org/>

Videos from 2012 are still available on the website also <http://rootstech.org/videos>

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts & Tote Bags

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

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. is a nonprofit organization certified under Section 501 c [3] of the Internal Revenue Code



Collin McKinney

By Joy Gough



Most of us know that Collin County and its county seat were named for Collin McKinney, but what else do we know about him? During his lifetime, the United States and Texas were going through great changes in their governments and development. It is said that Collin McKinney lived under eight flags.

Mordecai McKinney emigrated from Scotland to America around 1710 and settled around Lebanon Township in present-day New Jersey. He was married in 1713. His wife was from Raritan, New Jersey and many of their children were baptized there. Raritan and Lebanon are about 12 miles apart.

Collin McKinney was born in Raritan, New Jersey on April 17, 1766. He was the second of ten children and the second son of Daniel McKinney and Mercy Blatchley. Mordecai was his great grandfather. Collin's father was active in the Revolutionary War. After the war, around 1783, several members of the McKinney family, including Collin's father, Daniel, moved their families near the end of the Logan Trace of the Wilderness Road in Kentucky. They established a place they called McKinney's Station, which was in present-day Lincoln County near Crab Orchard. The geography is a little strange here. Kentucky was part of Virginia until 1812, when it became the fifteenth state. So, technically, the families moved to Virginia. Collin would have been 17.

The Indians were still attacking the frontier settlers and there are stories of Collin outsmarting them. Collin's father Daniel was a member of the Kentucky militia, which helped protect the early settlers. Daniel died in 1809.

In 1794 Collin McKinney married Amy Moore. They had 4 children, two of whom reached adulthood, son Ashley and daughter Polly. Amy died May 6, 1804.

On April 14, 1805, Collin married Betsy Leake Coleman. They were the parents of 6 or 7 children. Collin was a magistrate in Kentucky from 1805 until the family moved to Arkansas.

Collin McKinney was a deacon at Separate Baptist Church in Crab Orchard, Kentucky. In 1817 he united with the Barton W. Stone Christian Movement, which later became the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ. He and some of his sons became lay ministers. From then on he started Christian churches wherever he was living.

In 1823 Collin McKinney sold his trading post in Elkton, Kentucky, and moved with several other families to a point six miles east of Texarkana, arriving there on September 15, 1824. He was elected Justice of the Peace for Hempstead County, Arkansas.

A Mexican land grant colony called Wavell's Colony was established west of Texarkana along the Red River in 1826 with Ben Milam as the agent. The colony included all of present-day Bowie and Red River Counties in Texas. The colony was also called Hickman's Prairie and Pecan Point.

Up until 1838 the area was considered part of Miller County, Arkansas. It was also claimed by Mexico as part of Tejas. The residents considered themselves residents of the United States. The area was included in the 1830 census of the United States, as well as the 1830 Mexico list of residents of Wavell's Colony. Because of the dispute between Mexico and the United States over the area, the settlers did not receive titles to their land until after the Republic of Texas was established. Today it is part of Bowie County, Texas.

The McKinneys moved to Hickman's Prairie around 1828. A deed to Collin McKinney's headright was recorded in 1838 listing his property at 24 labors, 209.330 square varas. Varas and labors are old Spanish measurements of land area. That converts to 4251.3 acres. His land was about 1 mile wide. On the west side it was 5.5 miles to the Red River. On the east side it was 8 miles to the river. On the 3 mile twist and turns of the Red River was McKinney landing.

(Continued on page 4)

Collin McKinney, continued

Collin's son Ashley had the headright to his east and his son William had the headright on his west side. Collin was a magistrate in that area of Texas until 1839. He made eleven trips back to Kentucky to escort groups of immigrants to Texas.

As early as 1831 the McKinney family was holding Christian worship services at Pecan Point with a small group of neighbors. This was illegal at the time because, as residents of Mexico, Catholicism was the only religion allowed. In 1842 a Brother Gates of the Christian Church brought a boat load of immigrants to McKinney Landing. He held services at the school for a week and started a church with sixteen members.

In 1835 relations between Texians and Mexico were deteriorating. Santa Anna had become the dictator of Mexico in 1834 and refused to re-instate the Texas Treaty of 1824. By the end of 1835 Texas had created a provisional government, which announced that a convention would be convened on March 1.

On March 1 delegates from all over Texas arrived at Washington-on-the-Brazos for the Convention of 1836. Four delegates from the Red River settlements traveled on horseback over 350 miles to take part in the Convention. One of them was 70-year-old Collin McKinney. He was the oldest delegate at the Convention.

One of the members of the Red River delegation was named President of the Convention. Collin McKinney was one of five delegates appointed to write the Texas Declaration of Independence. The committee was appointed on March 1. The Declaration of Independence was approved unanimously on March 2 and signed by all 60 delegates on March 3. On March 4 Sam Houston was appointed Major General of the Army of the Republic of Texas.



The Convention continued with the delegates writing a Constitution for the new Texas Republic. Collin McKinney was appointed to the committee that wrote the Constitution. He is credited with making the newly formed counties in the northern part of Texas approximately 30 miles square with the county seat within 3 miles of the geographic center of the county. His idea was that a man on horseback could come to the courthouse and go back home in one day if the county was that size. The new Republic of Texas Constitution was adopted on March 16.

At the time that this convention was taking place the Alamo was under siege. The Alamo siege started on February 24 and was over by March 6. Newly appointed Major General Sam Houston gathered an army to rescue the Alamo, but the conflict was already over before he could get there.

After the Alamo battle, the Mexican Army took aim at the Convention being held at Washington-on-the-Brazos. At this time Collin McKinney wrote a letter to his family stating "By the time you get this letter, I will probably be dead. Things are very bad here. The Mexican Army is all around us and they are threatening to kill every man that is attending this Convention." The Convention delegates rapidly dispersed on March 17. The Battle of San Jacinto occurred on April 21. The Texas Revolution ended on May 14 when Santa Anna signed a treaty with Sam Houston.

The First Congress of the Republic of Texas convened on October 3, 1836 at Columbia, Texas. It consisted of 14 Senators and 30 Representatives. Terms of office were for one year. Collin McKinney served in the First, Second and Fourth terms. One of the things that was decided during the First Congress was the flag for the Republic of Texas.

Before Texas became a Republic, the Collin County area was part of Red River County or the Red River Settlements. After the Republic was founded, Fannin County and Bowie County were formed out of Red River County and the Collin County area was part of Fannin County. Collin County was not formed until statehood in 1845.

In 1840 and 41 the Red River had terrible floods. Several families left the Bowie County area, including some of Collin's children. They moved to the area around the present-day Grayson/Collin border near present-day Van Alstyne. Ashley McKinney settled east of the present-day town. The Van Alstyne Cemetery was located on land belonging to Younger Scott McKinney and was originally the McKinney Family Cemetery. Ashley McKinney was buried

Collin McKinney, continued

there in 1847. William McKinney settled a few miles south of Ashley in present-day Collin County. Collin McKinney sold his land in Bowie County in 1846 and moved to the Collin County area to be near his family. He was 80 years old.

McKinney's farm was north of present-day Anna. The lumber for his house was planed on on his property by slaves. After his and his wife's deaths, the house was unused. When Texas was preparing to celebrate the Centennial of the Republic of Texas in 1936, Collin County had the cabin moved to McKinney to be used as a visitor center. After the celebration, it was moved to Finch Park in McKinney. It burned in 1980.

With statehood in 1845, Collin County was formed and named in honor of the man, who helped write the Texas Declaration of Independence and the Texas Constitution. Once the boundary between Grayson and Collin Counties was surveyed, it was found that his farm was only a few miles inside his namesake county. When the county's first county seat, Buckner, was found to be too far from the center of the county, the new county seat of McKinney was also named in his honor.

The McKinney family helped form the community of Mantua and the Mantua Christian Church in northern Collin County. It is said that the Christian congregation in Bowie County moved to the Collin/Grayson area between 1844 and 1846 to start the Mantua Christian Church.. That church later moved to Van Alstyne and is still active as the First Christian Church of Van Alstyne. Five slaves of the McKinney family are listed as charter members of the Mantua church. Mantua disappeared when the railroad bypassed it in 1872. Van Alstyne, Anna and Melissa were formed by the railroad.

In 1855 Collin wrote a letter to relatives back in Kentucky saying railroad fever was very high and everybody was buying stock in the railroad company. He asked them to send him a pint of clover seeds. He died September 8, 1861 at the age of 95, and is buried in the Van Alstyne Cemetery. Because of the Civil War the railroad did not come through for another 15 years.

During his lifetime Collin McKinney had lived under eight different flags: British, Colonial America, the early United States, Mexican, the Provisional Government of Texas, the Republic of Texas, the United States, and the Confederate States of America.

Sources:

The Pioneers of Pecan Point by J. M. Deaver
 McKinney Clan by Clara McKinney Reddell
 Bowie County Deed records
 Handbook of Texas Online
 Weekly Democrat, July 22, 1937
 History of Bowie County
 Texas Historical Markers
 Files of Ridgell McKinney



Donations to the Library

The following books were donated to the library on March 6, 2013. Many of them have to go to the bindery and then they will be cataloged and placed on the shelves:

DeKalb Co, AL Probate Court Records, 1836-1930

Remount Memorial Cemetery, Montgomery Alabama, Cemetery

State of Alabama, Montgomery Co Marriage Book A-E 1817-1850, v. 1

State of Alabama, Montgomery Co Marriage Book vol 2, 1850-1860, bks 2A & 2

State of Alabama, Montgomery Co Marriage Book 3, 4 1860-1877

Early Land Patents of Montgomery County Alabama

Bible Records of Montgomery County Alabama and Surrounding Counties

Understanding Meyers Orts, transcription guide

The German Researcher

German Genealogy Research Online

The Name is the Game, Onomatology and the Genealogists

A War of 1812 Death Register, "Whispers in the Dark"

Delaware Trails, Some Tribal Records 1842-1907

Columbiana County Ohio Marriages 1800-1870

Pioneers on Maine Rivers

Buckingham County Virginia Surveyor's Plat Book 1762-1858

The Trail of the Black Walnut

Native American Wills and Probate Records 1911-1921

Jamestown People to 1800

Scots in Jamaica 1655-1855

Early History of the Cherokees Embracing Aboriginal Customs, Religion, Laws, Folk Lore and Civilization

Osage Indian Bands and Clans

Pocahontas' Descendants

Fourth and Fifth Corrections and Additions to Pocahontas Descendants

A Gazetteer of Indian Territory

French and Swiss Protestants Settled in Charleston

QuickSheet: Pennsylvania Genealogy Research