



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of  
Plano Libraries

March, 2004

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## Upcoming Events

### Saturday Seminars

Genealogy Friends sponsors free seminars the third Saturday of every month from 9:30 to Noon at the Gladys Harrington Library.

**May 15, 2004** - Clare Molina will talk to us—"Internet Military Sources" and "How to Locate Military Records"

**June 19, 2004** - "Beginning Genealogy" by Stella Fincher and "Cite Your Sources" by Weldon Fincher

**July 17, 2004** - Barbara Coakley will talk to us about Immigration and Naturalization Records

**August 21, 2004** - "Social History" by Lynne Darrouzet and "Creating An Ancestor" by Clare Molina

**October 16, 2004** - Leo Baca will be returning to discuss DNA Research

**November 20, 2004** - Learn to publish your genealogy finds on the Internet using Front Page - John Darrouzet

**December 18, 2004** - Annual Show and Tell—Show off your findings

### All Day Workshop—Hoppin' The Pond

Genealogy Friends is proud to present an all day workshop on Saturday, April 17th on European Research.

Join us at the Gladys Harrington Library. Doors open at 8:15 am. Seminars will be from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Topics will include:

- German Research
- British Research
- Czechoslovakia Research
- French Research
- Norwegian Research
- Barbados Research
- Canadian Research

Cost: Non-members \$28 and Members \$25 For more information contact Genealogy Friends at [genfriends@comcast.net](mailto:genfriends@comcast.net) or check out our website [www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl). The registration form will be available soon on the website.

Box lunches from Jason's Deli will be available for purchase at the door for \$6.50. They include a sandwich (turkey, ham or roast beef), chips, cookie, and a pickle.

### History and Genealogy Web Site

Members of Genealogy Friends are contributing to a new web site—History and Genealogy for the Active Researcher located at <http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghle>.

The goal is to expand the knowledge of those researching in Collin County and North Texas. Site features include:

- Collin County History
- Early Settlers - Submit information on your ancestors.
- Collin County Maps
- Addresses of Local, County, and State governments, libraries, etc.
- Court of Honor -Names of early settlers and those researching them.
- Research Tips
- Collin County Reference Books
- Links to other genealogy sites
- Genealogy Classes at CCCC
- Speakers Bureau

The site is under construction with new items being added frequently, check it out often.

## 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

### Volunteer Activities

#### Library Volunteers

Our volunteers are in the library during the day on most days. Check out our web page and the bulletin board for the schedule of volunteers on duty; or call the Reference Desk to inquire 972-461-7175. If you would like to volunteer to work in the library, contact Pat Mitchell.

#### Volunteers Needed

We need several volunteers to help with all facets of Genealogy Friends activities and events. If you have a talent, extra energy, or are willing to help in any way, please contact us at [genfriends@comcast.net](mailto:genfriends@comcast.net). Current Opportunities Include:

- Help is needed to continue to index the 1930 Census for Collin County. The indexes are posted on our web site to enable researchers to more easily find their families. We will provide a CD containing the Census and the format for the Excel or Open Office Spreadsheet where the data is entered.
- Volunteers are needed for all facets of the Lock Ins including refreshments, manning stations, sharing information or experiences, and registration. If you can help contact Joyce Kaplan.
- If you would like to serve on a committee to improve our events, please contact Weldon Fincher.

### Lock Ins & Board Meetings

Library Lock Ins - May 7, and October 29th.  
Board Meetings will be March 16, and July 20th.  
The Annual Meeting will be October 4th.

### Publications For Sale

The following are available from Genealogy Friends:

Plano Star Courier Index 1904-1910	\$20
Plano Star Courier Index 1911-1917	\$20
Cemeteries of Collin County, TX	\$20
Collin County, TX Voter Registration Index 1867	\$40
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	

### Tracing Our Roots Column

The "Tracing Our Roots" column by Brenda Kellow appears in Plano Star Courier, Star Community Newspapers and DFW Community News weekly. The column and an archives of past columns are also available at <http://www.geocities.com/TracingOurRoots>.

### Web Sites

The St Louis Circuit Court records are being put online.  
[Http://stlcourtrecords.wustl.edu/index.cfm](http://stlcourtrecords.wustl.edu/index.cfm)

The Grand Canyon State (Arizona) recently released its birth (1887-1928) and death (1878-1953) certificates online as PDF files. <http://genealogy.az.gov/>

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services website contains an interesting article about immigrants changing their names.  
<http://uscis.gov/graphics/aboutus/history/articles/names.htm>

## Web Sites

Early American Roads & Trails By Beverly Whitaker  
(Professional genealogist)  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~gentutor/trails.htm>

Early Migration Map Roads & Trails  
<http://www.intl-research.com/images/eastbig.gif>

First Families-1600s ANCESTORS DATA BASE  
<http://www.firstfamilies.org/db/>

The Outhouse -Genealogy & Family Humor  
[http://lest-we-forget.com/The\\_Outhouse/index.htm](http://lest-we-forget.com/The_Outhouse/index.htm)

Surname Navigator —Search simultaneous in multiple databases. Each site covers a different country:

<http://www.rat.de/kuijsten/navigator/belarus/index.html>

<http://www.rat.de/kuijsten/navigator/czech/index.html>

<http://www.rat.de/kuijsten/navigator/england/index.html>

<http://www.rat.de/kuijsten/navigator/estonia/index.html>

<http://www.rat.de/kuijsten/navigator/israel/index.html>

<http://www.rat.de/kuijsten/navigator/scotland/index.html>

<http://www.rat.de/kuijsten/navigator/ukraine/index.html>

<http://www.rat.de/kuijsten/navigator/wales/index.html>

## Condolences

Please keep Ned Hoover and his family in your thoughts and prayers. They lost their wife and mother, Ione, on February 26th.

## Dues Are Due

It is time for us to pay our dues. Single: \$30. Family: \$50. Friend: \$100; Gold: \$500; Platinum: \$1000. We currently have over 70 members.

Please consider **matching funds** if your corporation is a participant. We are a nonprofit organization certified under Section 501 [c] [3] of the Internal Revenue Code.

## September All Day Seminar

### John Humphrey

On Saturday, September 18, 2004, Genealogy Friends presents award-winning author, John T. Humphrey.

John is the current president of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society and vice president of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. Mr. Humphrey's principal genealogical publication is the fourteen-volume set of Pennsylvania Births that list more than 170,000 birth in eleven eastern Pennsylvania counties prior to 1800. He has written other books and numerous articles, lectures widely on German and colonial research, and has appeared on national television and public radio. He was the former director of the National Genealogical Society Learning Center. Currently Mr. Humphrey is working on genealogical records created during World War II of interest to researchers in Germany and the United States.

Topics will be:

Reconstructing Families on the Colonial Frontier - Records kept during the colonial period can be difficult to find or when they do exist, they are often incomplete causing serious obstacles to research. This lecture explores strategies to get around these obstacles by creatively using data found in the records that do exist.

Researching Pennsylvania Ancestors - If your ancestors are from the keystone state you need to know about Pennsylvania's deeds, warrants, patents, probate and vital records.

Researching German Ancestors: "The Agony and the Ecstasy" - This two hour introduction to German research explores obstacles like language and custom, and it looks at a variety of records kept by Germans both in the U.S. and Germany that will open the way to a rich source of research material.

Cost: Non-members before Sept 1, \$32, after Sept 1st, \$37 and Members \$25 Box Lunches from Jason's Deli will be available for purchase. They include a sandwich (turkey, ham, or roast beef), chips, a cookie, and a pickle.

For more information contact Genealogy Friends at [genfriends@comcast.net](mailto:genfriends@comcast.net). Watch our web site for more information.

## Wills and Probate Records

Wills and probate records can provide evidence of family relationships as well as information to help us put our ancestors in the context of their lives.

If your ancestor died leaving a valid will they died testate. If your ancestor died without leaving a valid will they died intestate. States govern probate law so it is wise to investigate the laws in effect in the place where your ancestor died. If your ancestor owned real estate or had children of less than legal age, there were probate records generated even if they did not leave a will. Whether or not they still exist is a different point.

In a will a person may name their spouse and living children, however, for various reasons they may not be mentioned. If some of their children pre-deceased them, leaving living grand-children, they may also be mentioned. There may also be people mentioned who are not relatives. The will of Anton Wilke provided valuable information I had been seeking. In his will he mentions, not only his wife's maiden name but her two previous husbands and all the children by each marriage. His wife and her second husband were the parents of my Great-great Grandfather. I was able to locate the will because an abstract existed that included not only the names of the deceased but the executors/administrators. My Great-great Grandfather was named as the Executor in the will. Even if you don't recognize the name of the deceased, obtain the original document and read the entire text. The abstract did not even mention the wife's name, much less the information on her previous husbands.

If a person dies intestate all the heirs have to be identified based on the law of the state before the administrator can begin their tasks. This can provide invaluable clues, for times before vital records, this may be one of the few records that exist proving the relationship between a parent and child.

The probate process is similar in most states. First the Will is presented to the court and court admits it to probate, payment of fee and will is recorded. An administrator is appointed if an executor was not named in the will, an inventory is made, the property is disposed of often by a sale, obligations are paid, distributions to heirs are made based on the provisions of the will or the law of the state, and the final settlement papers are filed.

To find a probate record you will need to know the person's place of residence at the time of their death. If they resided in one place and the family resided in a different place, check both. Joseph Newsham grew up in Monroe County, Illinois. In 1849 he caught the gold fever bug and relocated to California. He died 10 years later in California, however, he still owned a piece of property in Monroe County and the rest of his family was still there. There is a probate file in Monroe County for Joseph. Often there is an index of probate records.

Normally you will find two types of probate records — records of the probate court and estate packets. The court records are a diary of what occurred in the court, whereas the estate packet usually contains all documents filed with the court pertaining to the inventory and disposition of your ancestors belongings. The estate packets can tell you many things about your ancestor. If they owned property, there may be a description of the property and receipts for any taxes paid or repairs made which were paid for by the estate.

Often in the estate packet you will find the records from the sale of property, both real estate and personal property. Pay attention to the people who purchase items especially things that would be family heirlooms or those that appear numerous times, they may be relatives.

If there are minor children a guardian will be named and there will be records generated including accounting of spending of the estate on the children's behalf which can provide interesting information about childhood illnesses, schools attended, etc.

The estate packet of John Newsham was extremely interesting. Family lore included a story about John, he lost his mind and died in a private hospital. John and his family lived in Macon County, Illinois. There is no death certificate, obituary, or will for John. However, his probate packet had been microfilmed by the Family History Library. John did not leave a will, therefore, all of his living heirs, his wife and children, were mentioned. Included in the packet was a receipt for John's care for the month leading up to his death at the Illinois Central Hospital for the Insane, the first hospital for the mentally ill in Illinois. I'm not sure how long

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## Education Opportunities

### 2004

**April 3**, St. Louis Genealogical Society Annual Fair, "Sail Into the Past" featuring John P. Colletta, PhD. For more information visit their website <http://www.stlgs.org>

**April 10**, "Historic Heart of Fair Park and White Rock Lake" presented by the Dallas Historical Society takes participants back in time as Dallas historian Steven Butler leads a walking tour of the park, where so much colorful history took place. 9:00 am departure from the Hall of State, Fair Park and 2:00 return. Email [frank@dallashistory.org](mailto:frank@dallashistory.org) for more information.

**April 22-24**, Ohio Genealogical Society Annual Conference. Visit their website <http://www.ogs.org>.

**April 22-25**, The Society for German-American Studies Annual Symposium will be held in New Ulm, Minnesota. Email [jeckstein@newulmtel.net](mailto:jeckstein@newulmtel.net) for more information.

**May 19-22**, The National Genealogical Society annual conference will be held in Sacramento, California, the website is coming soon at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/confnatl.htm>

**June 13-18**, Institute on Genealogical and Historical Research, Sanford University, Birmingham, Alabama. More information available on courses, fees, housing, etc. <http://www.sanford.edu/schools/ighr/ighr.html>.

**June 23-24**, Palatines to America National Conference, Albany, New York. Conference theme is Palatine Footprints.

**July 11-16** The Genealogical Institute of Mid-America will hold its tenth annual study program in Springfield, Illinois. Details are available from the Institute Director, Ms. Susan Kaufman at [kaufmansusan@juno.com](mailto:kaufmansusan@juno.com)

**July 11-17** The National Institute on Genealogical Research will be held at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Visit their website for more information - <http://www.rootsweb.com/~natgenin>

**September 8-11** "Legends Live Forever - Researching the Past for Future Generations" FGS 2004 Conference will be held in Austin, Texas. Topics include oral history, writing your family story, using social history in genealogy, foreign research, immigration and naturalization, Texas and the southwest. The conference hotel will be the Hilton Conference Center. To sign up for the conference e-zine send a message to [ezine@fgs.org](mailto:ezine@fgs.org). More information is available at the FGS web site <http://www.fgs.org>.

## Web Sites

**Website: Connecticut History Online** [www.cthistoryonline.org](http://www.cthistoryonline.org)

The Connecticut History Online website currently contains approximately 14,000 photographs, drawings, and prints, which offer the user a picture of life in Connecticut from the beginning of the nineteenth century to the middle of the twentieth century.

If you need to locate a library try this site: <http://www.libraryspot.com>

**National Park Service Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System**—search for ancestors who fought in the Civil War. <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/soldiers.htm>

## New In The Library

The following have been added to the Genealogy Collection at the Gladys Harrington Library:

- Index to the Choctaw & Mississippi Choctaw Rolls GEN 929.308997 MIL
- Telling our stories: Grayson County Reminiscences: The First 150 Years GEN 976.4557 TEL
- The Plano Book Telephone Directory, 2003 GEN 384.625 PLA
- The Family Tree Guide Book to Europe: Your Passport to Tracing Your Genealogy Across Europe GEN 929.1072 FAM
- Before Memories Fade: An Archival Index of Comanche County, Texas World War II Veterans GEN 940.5412764 BEF
- Genealogical Research in Ohio, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition GEN 929.10720771 SPE
- The Beginner's Guide to Using Tax Lists GEN 929.1072 CAR
- The Diary of Bert Nichols, 1895 GEN 929.2 NIC
- An Abstract of North Carolina Wills From About 1760 to About 1800 GEN 929.3756 ABS
- Collin County, Texas Voter Registration Index, 1867 GEN 929.3764556 GEN
- Intestates and Others From the Orphans Court Books of Monmouth County, N.J., 1785-1906 GEN 929.374946 CRO

## Newsletter Articles

Have you found an unusual record during your search? How did you solve that last really tough problem? Write an article and submit it to be published in the newsletter. Have you discovered a fantastic web site? Email it to Barbara Coakley at [bjc1620@hotmail.com](mailto:bjc1620@hotmail.com).

## Book Exchange

Genealogy Friends would like to exchange Collin County books with books from other societies. If you have an area or society you would like us to try and exchange with, please contact Joy Gough at [jfarrgo@comcast.net](mailto:jfarrgo@comcast.net).

## Family History Library Survey

During the month of March the Family History Library is conducting a survey of those who have used the library from 2002 to the present. The survey takes about ten minutes to complete and three lucky winners will get \$50 gift certificates from Barnes & Noble. At the end of the survey, they ask what type of library user you are (or were) and Professional Researcher is one of the options. There is also space for writing comments. The FHL was extensively remodeled in 2001, so I believe that is why they only want responses from those who have used the library from 2002 to now. The FHL is now in the early stages of further remodeling, so now is the time to let the library know what you as a professional would like to see changed. Here is the link, which can also be accessed from a link on [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org): <http://survey.libqual.org/index.cfm?ID=156076>

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he was there but John was a resident when he died. Also included were the inventory, which indicated that his wife and children continued to operate the family farm in John's absence. I could tell by the descriptions what types of livestock they were raising and how many of each. The inventory also included items indicating that his wife or daughter was a seamstress. There was a description of the real estate he owned at the time of his death, so I was able to compare it to the land records I had to ensure I had all the records. The records proved the relationship between he and his children and provided details of their lives that weren't available in other places. Check out probate records and wills for your ancestors, you never know what you might find.