



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of  
Plano Libraries

March 2007

P.O. Box 860477, Plano, TX, 75086-0477  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl>  
<http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghl>  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcolli3>

Email Address: [genfriends@tx.rr.com](mailto:genfriends@tx.rr.com)

Newsletter: Barbara Coakley [bjc1620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjc1620@sbcglobal.net)

## Saturday Seminars & Lock Ins

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2006 & 2007:

**April 21, 2007—All Day Workshop—“Forensic Genealogy” by Colleen Fitzpatrick will be returning. Topics include Forensic Genealogy I & II, Mining Databases, and Using DNA to Further our Research. Seminar will be from 9:30 to 4:00. Before 4/1/07 Members \$25.00 Non-Members \$32.00. Boxed Lunches are available for \$7.00. See our website for more information.**

May 19, 2007—Ed Sandbach will discuss Preserving and Organizing Photos and Vicki Bell will discuss Digital Photography

June 16, 2007—Happi McGirk will speak to us about Writing Your Family History and Creating Digital Heritage Albums

July 13, 2007—Lock In—Regional Research. Sessions will cover research in various parts of the US.

July 21, 2007—Martina Willdechaparro will speak on the Victorian Mourning Culture. Second Speaker TBD

August 18, 2007—Preparing for a Research Trip by Barbara Coakley

September 15, 2007—Lynne Darrouzet is our speaker, topic Government Documents.

October 20, 2007—Glen Kinkade, topic to be announced.

October 26, 2007—Lock In—Computers and Genealogy

November 17, 2007—Richard Preston will speak to us about Migration Patterns.

December 15, 2007—Annual Show n Tell. Bring your genealogy finds to share with your friends.

If you have suggestions for programs for 2008 please submit them to Barbara Coakley at [bjc1620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjc1620@sbcglobal.net)

## 2007 Research Retreat to Salt Lake City

Genealogy Friends may be sponsoring a trip to Salt Lake City this fall, the trip to Washington DC has been cancelled due to lack of interest. Stay tuned for more information.

## New Website—Historic Postcards

Joy Gough has created a web site for her historic postcard collection. To view the web site visit <http://freepages.history.rootsweb.com/~classicpostcards/>. If you would like to add your historic post cards to the web site contact Joy at [jfarrgo@verizon.net](mailto:jfarrgo@verizon.net)

## Gen Friends Historian Named

Joy Gough has been named Historian for Genealogy Friends. If you have nay photos, newsletters, newspaper clippings or other mementos pertaining to GenFriends, please contact her at [GenFriends@tx.rr.com](mailto:GenFriends@tx.rr.com)

## Write A Book Challenge! Earn a \$5 Donation to Gen Friends

That's right. This offer is for members of Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. only.

**What do you have to do?** Write a biography of one of your family members, a history of a family line, or family newsletter, etc., per the few requirements below, and present it to Brenda Kellow to read, or you may bring it to the 2007 December Show and Tell program and win a \$5 donation to Genealogy Friends. Talk to Brenda if you have problems meeting any of the requirements below. E-mail her at [GenFriends@tx.rr.com](mailto:GenFriends@tx.rr.com).

### Requirements:

- \* Book or booklet written on some phase of family history and published professionally, or you may "publish" off your own computer before December 2007's Show and Tell program. A hard cover is not required.
- \* Requirements: At least ten (10) pages which contain:

Five (5) pages of text of your own composition and not composed by a genealogy program such as *Family Tree Maker*, *Legacy Family Tree*, etc. There is no limit on written text. If you have more than ten (10) pages, great! The text should contain the subject's vital information such as birth, death, marriage, and places where the event took place if you have that information. Text should contain some history such as the life and times of that period; how the time period affected the family; note if the female gave birth before the migration from one place to another, or did she travel while pregnant; the difficulty of traveling in wagons across the country and over the mountains; or crossing rivers, etc. In other words, make it interesting to read.

Remaining pages may be of graphics such as photocopies of an original document such as a will, marriage certificate, obituary, funeral card, or pictures you have collected on the subject.

Have at least four (4) properly cited footnotes, endnotes (See *Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian*, by Elizabeth Mills. A copy is in the library.) You may also embed the source inside parentheses within the body of the text. The purpose of the citation is to document some of your findings and familiarize yourself with citing a source.

Title page should contain the family name. If you are covering more than one family surname, then follow the title with the other family surnames:

*The Jones Journal*

*With Related Lines of Kelly, Smith, and Valentine*

Donate one copy to the Gladys Harrington Library Genealogy Section and display book or booklet at the December 2007 Show and Tell Program.

The purpose of this challenge is to get you writing your family stories! You have until December 15, 2007 to complete the project. By beginning your writing with this challenge, you can earn a donation of \$5 per book or booklet to Genealogy Friends. It does not have to look like a high-end professional book. It is your book, your family. That is why the requirements are so generous and "writer friendly."

## 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

## McKinney Genealogy Program

The McKinney Memorial Public Library is having a free seminar on Saturday, February 24th from 3:00 to 4:00.

Carol Taylor from Greenville, Texas will speak on "Learn More About Civil War Research."

## Microfiche Reader for Sale

DuKane Explorer 14 microfilm reader, in good condition, with high, medium, low viewing

Used for indexing projects. \$100.

Phone Brenda Kellow, 972-941-9280, or email

[TraceRoots@comcast.net](mailto:TraceRoots@comcast.net)

## 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

## 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>.

## Happy Birthday Genealogy Friends

### By Joy Gough

Genealogy Friends is 10 years old this year. Its first organizational meeting was held in May of 1997. Nine genealogists had the idea of forming a new genealogy organization in Plano whose purposes would be:

1. Supporting and enlarging the genealogy section at the Gladys Harrington Library and
2. Educating people in genealogical research.

At the time Genealogy Friends was formed, the Genealogy Section at the Harrington Library covered only one row. There were only a few miscellaneous rolls of microfilm, and no computers, CDs, or microfiche. There was very little on the state of Texas and even less on Collin County.

The nine genealogists who met were: Elizabeth (Pinkie) Feigl, Stella Fincher, Jean Funk, Joy Gough, John Greer, Jeff Hines, Ned Hoover, Brenda Kellow, and Pat Mitchell. At this first meeting, Brenda Kellow was elected president, John Greer - vice-president; Jean Funk - secretary; and Joy Gough - treasurer. Jeff Hines was our attorney and filed all the paperwork necessary to form our corporation. Our first bylaws were adopted at this meeting. Jean Funk started the long process of filing for 501 c (3) non-profit status. The name chosen for this new organization was Genealogy Friends of Gladys Harrington Library, Inc.

Each of the nine original Board Members had a job. Pinkie Feigl was the mail person and facilities coordinator for annual seminars; Stella Fincher was the library liaison and was in charge of lock-ins; Ned Hoover indexed the materials in the genealogy section of Gladys Harrington Library; and Pat Mitchell designed the first brochure and was the library volunteer coordinator.

Our final organizational meeting was held in October of 1997. Monthly seminars started in November and our first lock-in was also held that November. Bob Kellow was elected to the Board in October and Pat Mitchell resigned in December to concentrate on her duties as the library volunteer coordinator.

In January of 1998, the name of our organization was changed to Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc.

Over our 10 years we have had many wonderful and varied programs. Cemetery programs included Tombstone Rubbings and Tombstone Photography, Humorous Tombstones and Obtaining Military Markers. Programs on determining your ancestor's personality included Face Reading and Handwriting Analysis. A romance novelist discussed writing and character development. Other authors talked about publishing and organizing our information.

Attorneys and courthouse employees have talked about records in the courthouse. There were also talks about Probate and Wills. Land Records talks included how to decipher land records to determine where your ancestor lived.

Librarians discussed doing research in the Gladys Harrington Library, the Confederate Research Center in

## Happy Birthday Genealogy Friends (continued)

Hillsboro, the National Archives in Fort Worth, and the Portal to Texas History at the University of North Texas.

Leo Baca introduced us to DNA research and the Seven Daughters of Eve. Internet talks have included Using Google, Favorite Genealogy Websites, Using Ancestry.com, and publishing your own website.

Our annual workshops have included several national speakers and a variety of subjects. They have always had a good attendance. Our earlier annual workshops were held in the council chambers of Plano City Hall. They have since been moved to the library. For a number of years an additional all-day workshop was held, usually in April. Perhaps our favorite one of these was the workshop called Hoppin' the Pond, where members gave talks on the various nations where they do research - Barbados, Canada, England, France, Germany, Norway. Another favorite was Writing Your Story in Small Increments.

Our lock-ins have continued to be a favorite feature of our group. They continue to be well received and much anticipated. A wide variety of classes have been offered at these quarterly events. Many attendees enjoy the pizza dinner where everybody socializes and discusses his/her genealogy with each other.

About 5 years ago, Genealogy Friends started sponsoring annual trips to Salt Lake City and the Family Search library. About 15 people have gone on each retreat.

Through it all, membership in Genealogy Friends has continued to grow. Our donations to the Harrington Library have made it the foremost genealogy library in Collin County. It is the only library in Collin County that has all of the Collin County records that are available on microfilm. The U. S. Census for Texas is available through 1930 and for the whole country through 1840. We are adding more research materials to the library all the time. In fact, the genealogy section has grown so large that there are plans to move it to a larger space at the Haggard Library soon. Not bad for 10 years of donations.

Let us hope that the next 10 years will be as successful as this first decade has been.

## Funeral Records Identify Many Secrets

By Brenda Kellow, CG

This has been a rather sad week necessitating going to two funerals—a family member and an acquaintance. The most emotional funeral was that of my great uncle who died on Saturday. He was one of my three favorites—Uncle Ernest, Uncle Bud and Uncle Ray—now all deceased in that order. No more great uncles are alive from any of my lines, but there is one great aunt still living. She is Uncle Ray's sister who is alive and well and living in California. Uncle Ray lived a great life blessed with a loving wife, and adoring children and grandchildren.

While making the long drive to the funeral home, I began to ponder whether I needed any genealogical in-

## Funeral Records Identify Many Secrets

By Brenda Kellow, CG

formation on this branch of the family. I could only remember two little girls, but they belonged to another uncle. I had never found their burial places. Being one to tie up any loose strings, my thoughts went to possible records I could search for the information. It was then I thought of funeral home burial records. I don't need to get funeral records to complete my search to document them, and it is not critical that each burial site be identified, but I never want to leave a stone unturned. After all, I had found a wealth of information on some of those records—and nothing on others. I entered a note in my PDA to remind me to tackle this when I got back home.

Upon returning home I examined the records I had found earlier. Among the records was a death certificate with little information on the cause of death or burial place. The only indication that either had been ill was in the column asking how many days the physician had been in attendance. He answered, "eight days." Funny, but that had not registered before as being important. The funeral home/burial record might just lead me to the cause of death, and maybe indicate if either was hospitalized. Certainly they were quarantined. Maybe there is a record of quarantines. If they were in the hospital, the only one was located in a nearby county. I've not fared well with finding hospital records. I made another note that I must identify the hospital and search the next county for non-resident deaths.

I was familiar with the little town where the two little sisters died. There were two cemeteries and one funeral home. I recalled the records were complete and the funeral director and his secretary had always been happy to help me with my family search in the past. Both cemeteries had been inventoried and published. Checking the books, I found nothing to indicate the girls were buried in either of these cemeteries. It is logical they would be buried in the town where their parents resided.

The death certificates I had obtained sometime earlier showed both died of [blank] within six (6) days of each other in the early 1900s. Although there were two public cemeteries in the town, there was only one funeral home. The next day I visited the funeral home and talked with the director about my dilemma. He found the burial record of each child and made copies for me. The funeral record corroborated that both had died within six days of each other. It showed the cemetery as Old Pioneer Cemetery, and the cause of death as typhoid fever. Great, now I had the cause of death. But, there was a surprise for me in that folder.

There was a sister who also died of typhoid in his file of the family that I wasn't aware of until the funeral home director asked if I wanted a copy of her record too. I was in luck. It gave her full name, including her maiden name, parent's names, the full name of her husband, and the name of the hospital in the adjoining county where she died. Typhoid fever had killed the young bride at age 16. How sad. I could not imagine the grief the parents suffered after losing three daughters within a fifteen-day period. The director indicated the two younger girls were buried side-by-side, with the older girl at their heads. Now I knew I was looking for three girls, sisters, two with their maiden name and the married girl with her husband's surname.

I must visit the courthouse in the next county where I will hopefully find the death certificate for the older girl. I knew it must be filed under her husband's surname. Evidently they were not married in the county in which her parents lived because there was no marriage record in the courthouse. Maybe I could find it in one of the contiguous counties. Since she died in one county and was buried in another, there should also be a record of "body removal." If I had not checked with the funeral director for the burial records, I may never have known about the married girl. He certainly went the extra mile to identify the girl I did not know existed. I love working in small towns, and the attention to detail given me by the residents.

I spent the rest of the day walking the cemetery reading stones. There was no stone in the entire burial ground with that family name, nor with the oldest girl's married name. The two girls lived and died with that terrible disease without their final resting place recognizing them. The only thing I could do now was to place a cen-

## Funeral Records (continued)

taph near the front gate with their three names and dates. Usually the cemetery keeper does not object when a family member places a memorial stone near the front gate of the cemetery.

Usually the cemetery records have something on them to enlighten me and fill in a missing puzzle piece in my family quilt. These certainly did. I know I really didn't need the burial places, but I always try to find them for my own satisfaction. This time I found the other daughter, and I knew the parents had purchased the burial plots, when the purchase was made, how the girls were placed in the plot, and their relationship to the plot owner, etc.

As I have indicated, funeral records have helped me several times. There was one occasion when I tried to find the burial place of a man that lead to a wonderful discovery. The funeral record had an attachment stapled to it that said a train had killed him while he was uncoupling a boxcar in the train yard in Fort Smith, Arkansas. It went on to say that he had spent four painful weeks in the local hospital after the doctors removed his leg. Unfortunately, he developed a fatal case of gangrene. He was not buried in Fort Smith, Arkansas, the site of the fatal accident, or in Fayetteville where the family originated. This was the opportunity to search through the family 'legends' to try and retrieve a clue in hopes I can document the story. Because some of the cousins had later moved from Fayetteville into Oklahoma City, I decided to try there. The Family History Center's microfilm of funeral home records and cemetery inventories in Oklahoma City was most helpful.

One cemetery in particular had the subject's name in the inventory list. The microfilm record showed that his mother, who had previously disappeared and was assumed to be dead, was alive before his death and living in her home in Oklahoma City. The reason she was presumed dead was because her husband was still living in their home in Washington County. If they legally separated or divorced, it was not in Washington County records, but that search is for another day. Now, lets go back to the burial plot. The mother had purchased the plot several years before her single son's death in the switching yards. From the burial record and the attachment, I found the cost of the plot, the names of more of her unmarried children, a drawing that marked exactly where on the plot each would to be buried, the mother's residence, and her daughter's occupation and address. The daughter was a hairdresser and owned her own shop. The mother and married daughter were living side by side.

Let me tell you about another funeral record that might be of interest. This funeral record identified a cemetery in Northampton County that I did not know about. Few people knew it was there because it was located behind a huge trash-recycling plant that totally blocked it from being seen from the road. However at my visit, the cemetery had been mowed and all the tombstones were upright indicating that someone was caring for it. A stroll through the bone yard uncovered the rather large tombstone of the person for whom I was searching. I'm glad I had the fortune to find it, because I have to tell you the odors from the plant were almost unbearable on that hot summer day.

There are other cemetery records that gave me valuable information, and some that gave me absolutely nothing. I think you get the point that if you have not checked cemetery and funeral records you may be missing valuable clues to your family puzzle.

There are few caretaker buildings in non-commercial cemeteries in the south and in Texas, but they are plentiful elsewhere. Just walk into the office and ask for assistance. They are most happy to help.

### Texas Laws concerning Cemeteries on Private Property.

§ 711.041. Access to Cemetery (a) Any person who wishes to visit a cemetery or private burial grounds for which no public ingress or egress is available shall have the right to reasonable ingress and egress for the purpose of visiting the cemetery or private burial grounds. This right of access extends only to visitation during reasonable hours and only for purposes usually associated with cemetery visits. (b) The owner or owners of the lands surrounding the cemetery or private burial grounds may designate the routes of reasonable ingress and egress. Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 634, § 22, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Facts about Funerals in the state of Texas: <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/tx/topic/cemeteries/txlaws.htm>